
Short Paper: Theory as Practice

For this paper (30% of grade), you should select any assigned theoretical or critical essay(s) from Weeks 1-2 and put these in conversation with a literary analysis of *The Swan Book* or *Lost Children Archive*. You might also include reference to M Archive, though your primary analysis should be focused on one of the novels. Your essay should make some claim about how reading these literary and theoretical texts together helps us think about questions raised by key concepts, themes, and problems explored in this class. For example, you might consider how the literary text asks us to reimagine concepts of archives, the politics of the archive and collective memory, and/or current global crises that we are facing. What kinds of demands might these texts be making regarding genre, style, or form in relation to arguments, concepts, or debates concerning the Anthropocene? In what ways do they require us to become different kinds of readers, as opposed to the normative expectations of Eurocentric/humanist literary traditions? Papers should be a minimum of 1,800-2,000 words (about 8-10 pages) and incorporate *at least* five to seven scholarly and/or theoretical sources. Papers must be formatted and cited using the most recent MLA style guidelines.

Rubric:	A: 18-20	B: 16-17	C: 14-15	D: 12-13	F: 0-11
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1. Depth of Subject: ____/20

Provides a clear subject/thesis and develops an argument with adequate support and evidence by examples while also effectively incorporating a clear theoretical framework. Demonstrates understanding of major concepts of text(s) and/or significant issues/contexts. Avoids lengthy explications or synopses of plot (if writing a literary analysis). Expresses originality of thought and sustains objective level of critical analysis.

2. Organization: ____/20

Analysis is precise, pertinent, and well supported. Provides a logical conceptual approach. Clearly links interpretive points to subject and/or argument. Avoids repetition, reductive arguments, or any tangential material that detracts from central focus. Provides clear transitions between and within sections of paper. Paragraphs and sentences are clearly structured and coherently and adequately develop their main topic.

3. Completeness & Accuracy: ____/20

Remains focused on exploring all elements of the stated thesis as fully as possible. Interpretation is appropriate and grounded within the text(s) and/or evidence from secondary sources. The paper adheres to and fulfills the requirements of the assignment, including the minimum word count and secondary sources.

4. Clarity of Expression: ____/20

Sentences are clear, concise, varied, and logical. Vocabulary and terminology are appropriate to the subject, purpose, and audience, and adhere to the standards of academic style. Subjects agree with verbs. Elements are parallel. References and word order are clear. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, mechanics, etc., are correct. Manuscript has been proofread and is free of typographical errors.

5. Style & Documentation: ____/20

Paper is formatted according to style guidelines. Does not heavily rely on quotations from secondary sources; paraphrases and summaries are in own words; phrasing and original wording is correctly quoted; documentation is provided for all quotations, summaries and paraphrases; makes effective use of signal phrases when quoting. Language, tone and verb tense correctly follow MLA guidelines. All references to primary and secondary sources are cited correctly and consistently according to style guidelines, including punctuation. Works Cited Page is correctly and consistently formatted. All in-text citations are included in Works Cited and vice versa.

Total Points: ____/100 x 2 = ____/200 (20% of Final Grade) **Letter Grade:** _____
