

EN 4323/6323:

# Literary Criticism

## from Plato to the Present

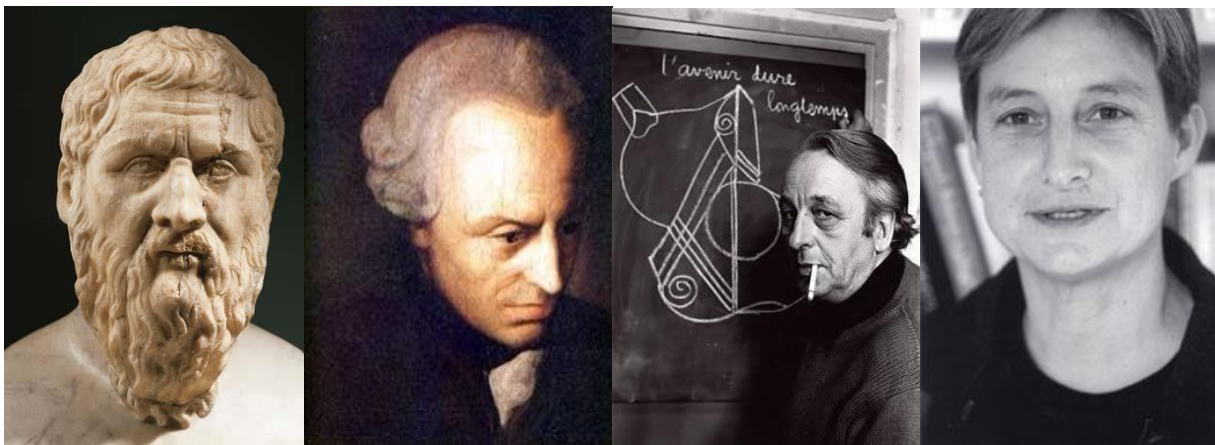
Class Time: Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:15

Dr. Shalyn Claggett

Since at least c. 360 B.C.E. (the date of Plato's *Republic*), thinkers have attempted to answer such questions as:

- What do works of literature mean?
- How do they establish those meanings?
- Why do (and why should) we care?

This course will explore how the most influential philosophers, writers, and literary theorists in the past 2,375 years have attempted to answer these, and other, questions. In our study, we will explore the prevailing schools of twentieth-century literary criticism with an eye to their intellectual forbearers. Philosophers studied will include Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Derrida, Walter Benjamin, Judith Butler, and many others. In addition, students will demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical paradigms examined by conducting their own critical readings of selected novels.



### Course Requirements:

Two exams, two critical essays, and one class presentation.