Name of the course: Battlelines: The Politics of Literature and the Literature of Politics

Lecturer name: Dr. Aaron Landau

Course number:

Office hours: Monday 16-17

This seminar will examine the interrelationship between political ideology and literature. What is political ideology? How does ideology shape and inform literature and, in turn, how is ideology constituted and articulated through literature? This seminar will address these and suchlike issues by studying theories of ideology by, among others, Marx, Lacan, Althusser, and Bourdieu as well as by examining selected literary works from different periods and genres by Shakespeare, Jack London, Brecht, Ayn Rand, and Tony Harrison.

Key words: Literature, ideology, politics, critical theory

Course requirements:

Attendance required yes
1. Participation in class 10%
2. Class Presentations 30%
3. Final Seminar Paper 60%

William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of King Lear* (1604-5)
Ayn Rand, *Anthem* (1937)
Tony Harrison, poems from *The School of Eloquence* (1978)