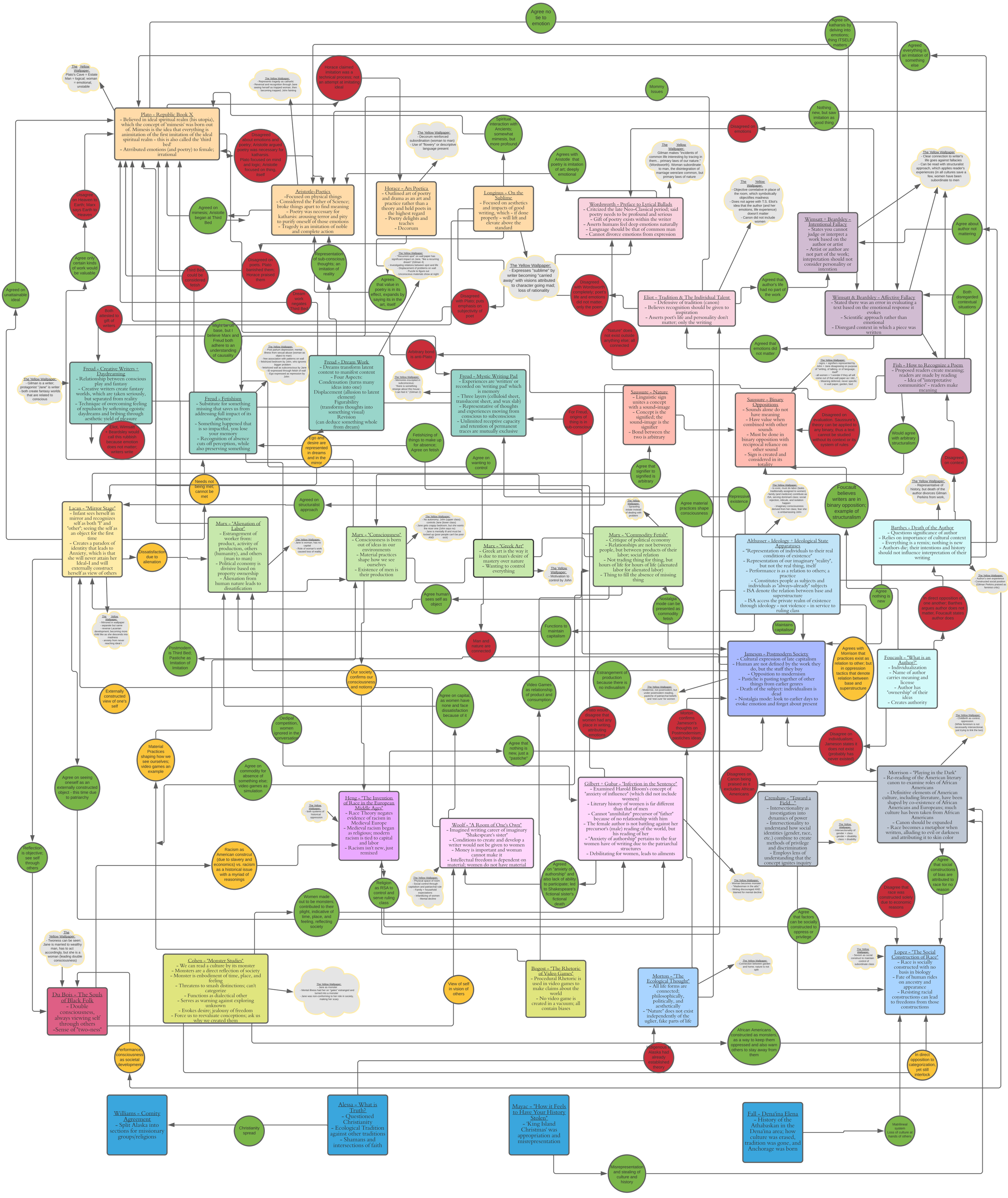
Plato – Republic Book X
- Believed in ideal spiritual realm (his utopia), which the concept of 'mimesis' was born out of. Mimesis is the idea that everything is animitation of the first imitation of the ideal spiritual realm – this is also called the 'third bed'
- Attributed emotions (and poetry) to female; irrational
The Yellow Wallpaper:
Plato's Cave = Estate
Man = logical; woman = emotional, unstable
Agree on unattainable ideal
Disagree on Heaven to Earth; Marx says Earth to Heaven
Agree only certain kinds of work would be valuable
Agreed on structuralist approach
Needs not being met; cannot be met
Aristotle–Poetics
–Focused on physical things
- Considered the Father of Science; broke things apart to find meaning
- Poetry was necessary for katharsis: arousing terror and pity to purify oneself of those emotions
- Tragedy is an imitation of noble and complete action
Agreed on mimesis; Aristotle began at Third Bed
Disagreed about emotions and poetry; Aristotle argued poetry was necessary for katharsis.
Plato focused on mind and logic; Aristotle focused on thing, itself
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Represents tragedy as cathartic
- Reversal and recognition through Jane seeing herself as trapped woman, then becoming trapped; John fainting
Horace claimed imitation was a technical process; not an attempt at imitating ideal
Agree no tie to emotion
Agree on katharsis by delving into emotions; thing ITSELF matters
Agreed everything is an imitation of something else
Mommy Issues
Nothing new, but saw imitation as good thing
Disagreed on emotions
Horace – Ars Poetica
- Outlined art of poetry and drama as an art and practice rather than a theory and held poets in the highest regard
- Poetry delights and teaches
- Decorum
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Decorum reinforced subordination (woman to man)
- Use of "flowery" or descriptive language present
Spiritual interaction with Ancients; somewhat mimesis, but more profound
Agrees with Aristotle that poetry is imitation of art; deeply emotional
Longinus – On the Sublime
- Focused on aesthetics and impacts of good writing, which - if done properly - will lift and elevate above the standard
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Expresses "sublime" by writer becoming "carried away" with visions attributed to character going mad; loss of rationality
Disagreed with Plato; puts emphasis on subjectivity of poet
Wordsworth – Preface to Lyrical Ballads
- Critcized the late Neo-Classical period; said poetry needs to be profound and serious
- Gift of poetry exists within the writer
- Asserts humans feel deep emotions naturally
- Language should be that of common man
- Cannot divorce emotions from expression
The Yellow Wallpaper:
Gilman makes "incidents of common life interesting by tracing in them... primary laws of our nature." (Wordsworth). Woman subordinate to man, the disintegration of marriage were/are common, but primary laws of nature
Disagreed with Wordsworth completely; poet's life and emotions did not matter, only the poem
Eliot – Tradition & The Individual Talent
- Defensive of tradition (canon)
- Believes recognition should be given to inspiration
- Asserts poet's life and personality don't matter; only the writing
"Nature" does not exist outside anything else; all connected
Agreed that author's life had no part of the work
Agreed that emotions did not matter
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Objective correlative in place of the room, which symbolically objectifies madness
- Does not agree with T.S. Eliot's idea that the author (and her emotions, life experience) doesn't matter
- Canon did not include women
Wimsatt + Beardsley – Intentional Fallacy
- States you cannot judge or interpret a work based on the author or artist
- Artist or author are not part of the work; intepretation should not consider personality or intention
The Yellow Wallpaper
- Clear connection to writer's life goes against fallacies
- Can be read with structuralist approach, which applies reader's experiences (in all cultures save a few, women have been subordinate to men
Agree about author not mattering
Wimsatt & Beardsley – Affective Fallacy
- Stated there was an error in evaluating a text based on the emotional response it evokes
- Scientific approach rather than emotional
- Disregard context in which a piece was written
Both disregarded contextual situations
Fish – How to Recognize a Poem
- Proposed readers create meaning; readers are made by reading
- Idea of "interpretative communities" - readers make meaning
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- signs + signifiers represented by John + Jane disagreeing on purpose of 'writing, of talking, or of language, itself'
- all women = 'I wonder if they all will come out of that wall paper as I did. -'
- Meaning deferred, never specific in wall paper, garden, bed
Would agree with arbitrary structuralism
Disagreed on context
Disagreed on evaluation. Saussure's theory can be applied to any binary, thus a text cannot be studied without its context or its system of rules
Saussure – Binary Oppositions
- Sounds alone do not have meaning
- Have value when combined with other sounds
- Must be done in binary opposition with reciprocal reliance on other sound
- Sign is created and considered in its totality
Saussure – Nature
- Linguistic sign unites a concept with a sound-image
- Concept is the signified; the sound-image is the signifier
- Bond between the two is arbitrary
Agree that signifier to signified is arbitrary
Freud – Creative Writers + Daydreaming
- Relationship between conscious play and fantasy
- Creative writers create fantasy worlds, which are taken seriously, but separated from reality
- Technique of overcoming feeling of repulsion by softening egoistic daydreams and bribing through aesthetic yield of pleasure
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Gilman is a writer; protagonist "Jane" is writer
- both create fantasy worlds that are related to conscious
Eliot, Wimsatt + Beardsley would call this rubbish because emotion does not matter; writers write
Both attested to gift of writers
Might be off base, but I believe Marx and Freud both adhere to an understanding of causality
Freud – Fetishism
- Substitute for something missing that saves us from addressing full impact of its absence
- Something happened that is so impactful, you lose your memory
- Recognition of absence cuts off perception, while also preserving something
Ego and desire are represented in dreams and in the mirror
Fetishizing of things to make up for absence; Agree on fetish
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Post partum depression; mental illness from sexual abuse (woman as object to man)
- free association with patterns on wall
- fetishized bedroom by John, who ignores bigger problem
- fetishized wall as subconscious by Jane
- ID expressed through fetish of wall
- Ego expressed as repression by John
Freud – Dream Work
- Dreams transform latent content to manifest content
- Four Aspects:
Condensation (turns many ideas into one)
Displacement (allusion to latent element)
Figurability (transforms thoughts into something visual)
Revision (can deduce something whole from dream)
Arbitrary bond is anti-Plato
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Memories inscripted in subconscious:
"there is something strange about this house - I can feel it." (Gilman 2)
Freud – Mystic Writing Pad
- Experiences are 'written' or recorded on 'writing pad' which is memory
- Three layers (celluloid sheet, translucent sheet, and wax slab)
- Representative of thoughts and experiences moving from conscious to subconscious
- Unlimited receptive capacity and retention of permanent traces are mutually exclusive
For Freud, origins of thing is in sub-conscious
Agree on wanting to control
Representation of sub-conscious thoughts; an imitation of reality
Dream work negates Third Bed
Third Bed could be considered fetish
Disagreed on poets. Plato banished them; Horace praised them
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- "Recurrent spot" on wall paper has significant impact on Jane, "like a recurring dream" (Gilman 4)
- Investigating relations between spot and life
- Displacement of problems on wall
- Puzzle to figure out
- Unconscious materials show at night
Agrees that value in poetry is in its effect, expands by saying its in the art, itself
Lacan – "Mirror Stage"
- Infant sees herself in mirror and recognizes self as both "I" and "other"; seeing the self as an object for the first time
- Creates a paradox of identity that leads to Anxiety, which is that she will never attain her Ideal-I and will externally construct herself as view of others
Dissatisfaction due to alienation
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Mirrored in wallpaper
- separate but same
- reverse Lacanian development; becoming more child like as she descends into madness
- anxiety from never reaching ideal I
Externally constructed view of one's self
Agree on seeing oneself as an externally constructed object - this time due to patriarchy
Reflection is objective; see self through others
Marx – "Alienation of Labor"
- Estrangement of worker from: product, activity of production, others (humanity), and others (man to man)
- Political economy is divisive based on property ownership
- Alienation from human nature leads to dissatification
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Role of woman's work caused loss of reality
Postmodern is Third Bed; Pastiche as Imitation of Imitation
Marx – "Consciousness"
- Consciousness is born out of ideas in our environments
- Material practices shape how we see ourselves
- Existence of men is their production
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- No autonomy; John (upper class) controls Jane (lower class)
- Jane gets crappy bedroom, but she wants the nicer one (John says no)
- Jane is mentally ill and must be locked up (poor people can't be poor AND sick)
Agree human sees self as object
Our society confirms our consciousness and notions
Marx – "Greek Art"
- Greek art is the way it is due to man's desire of mastery over nature
- Wanting to control everything
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Motivation to control by John
Man and nature are connected
Functions to maintain capitalism
Marx – "Commodity Fetish"
- Critique of political economy
- Relationships are not between people, but between products of their labor; social relation
- Not trading thing for thing, but hours of life for hours of life (alienated labor for alienated labor)
- Thing to fill the absence of missing thing
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Sprawling estate instead of dealing with problem
Agree material practices shape consciousness
Nostalgia mode can be presented as commodity fetish
Repressive existence
Maintains capitalism
Althusser – Ideology + Ideological State Apparatuses
- "Representation of individuals to their real conditions of existence"
- Representation of our imaginary "reality", but not the real thing, itself
- Performance is as a relation to others; a practice
- Constitutes people as subjects and individuals as "always-already" subjects
- ISA denote the relation between base and superstructure
- ISA access the private realm of existence through ideology - not violence - in service to ruling class
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- to exist, must do labor (tasks traditionally assigned to women)
- family (and medicine) contribute as ISA, serving dominant class; social rejection, ridicule, and isolation happen
- imaginary consciousness derived from her class; fear she is embarrassing John
Foucault believes writers are in binary opposition; example of structuralism
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Representative of history, but death of the author divorces Gilman Perkins from work.
Barthes – Death of the Author
- Questions significance of author
- Relies on importance of cultural context
- Everything is a remix; nothing is new
- Authors die; their intentions and history should not influence interpretation of their writing
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Author's own experience
- Constructed social position (Gilman Perkins praised as feminist critic)
Agree nothing is new
In direct opposition of one another; Barthes argues author does not matter, Foucault states author does
Jameson – Postmodern Society
- Cultural expression of late capitalism
- Human are not defined by the work they do, but the stuff they buy
- Opposition to modernism
- Pastiche is pasting together of other things from earlier genres
- Death of the subject: individualism is dead
- Nostalgia mode: look to earlier days to evoke emotion and forget about present
Agrees with Morrison that practices exist as relation to other; but in oppression tactics that denote relation between base and superstructure
Foucault – "What is an Author?"
- Individualization
- Name of author carries meaning and license
- Author has "ownership" of their ideas
- Creates authority
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Modernist, not postmodern, but under postmodern reading, pastiche of patriarchal beliefs and 'rest cure' for women
Estrangement of production because there is no indivualism
Video Games as relationship of product and consumption
Plato would disagree that women had any place in writing, attributing emotions
Morton confirms Jameson's thoughts on Postmodernism; pastiches ideas
Disagree on individualism; Jameson states it does not exist (probably has never existed)
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Childbirth as control, oppression
(White feminism is not necessarily intersectional, just trying to link the two)
Oedipal competition, women ignored in the conversation
Agree on capital, as women have none and face dissatisfaction because of it
Material Practices shaping how we see ourselves; video games an example
Agree that nothing is new, just a "pastiche"
Agree on commodity for absence of something else; video games as simulation
Heng – "The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages"
- Race Theory negates evidence of racism in Medieval Europe
- Medieval racism began as religious; modern racism is tied to capital and labor
- Racism isn't new, just remixed
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- both systems of historical oppression
Racism as American constrcut (due to slavery and economics) vs. racism as a historical issue with a myriad of reasonings
Religion as RSA to control and serve ruling class
Women made out to be monsters; contributed to their plight, indicative of time, place, and feeling, reflecting society
Woolf – "A Room of One's Own"
- Imagined writing career of imaginary "Shakespeare's sister"
- Conditions to create and develop a writer would not be given to women
- Money is important and woman cannot make it
- Intellectual freedom is dependent on material; women do not have material
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Physical space of room
- Social control through capitalism and patriarchal rule
- Family + household expectations
- Infantilizing of women
- Mental decline
Agreed on "anxiety of authorship" and also lack of ability to participate; led to Shakespeare's fictional sister's fictional death
Gilbert + Gubar – "Infection in the Sentence"
- Examined Harold Bloom's concept of "anxiety of influence" (which did not include women)
- Literary history of women is far different than that of men
- Cannot "annihilate" precursor of "father" because of no relationship with him
- The female author is not battling against her precursor's (male) reading of the world, but his reading of her
- "Anxiety of authorship" pertains to the fear women have of writing due to the patriarchal structures
- Debilitating for women, leads to ailments
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Woman becomes monster
- "Madwoman in the attic"
- Writing discouraged AND blamed for mental decline
Disagrees on Canon being praised as it excludes African Americans
Crenshaw – "Toward a Field..."
- Intersectionality as investigation into dynamics of power
- Intersectionality to understand how social identities (gender, race, etc.) combine to create methods of privilege and discrimination
- Employs lens of understanding that the concept ignites inquiry
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Intersectionality of gender + class
- gender + disability
- class + disability
Morrison – "Playing in the Dark"
- Re-reading of the American literary canon to examine roles of African Americans
- Definitive elements of American culture, including literature, have been shaped by co-existence of African Americans and Europeans; much culture has been taken from African Americans
- Canon should be expanded
- Race becomes a metaphor when written, alluding to evil or darkness and attributing it to skin color
Agree that social constructions of bias are attributed to race for no reason
Disagree that race was constructed solely due to economic reasons
Agree that factors can be socially constructed to oppress or privilege
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Twoness can be seen: Jane is married to wealthy man, has to act accordingly, but she is a woman (leading double consciousness)
Du Bois – The Souls of Black Folk
- Double consciousness, always viewing self through others
-Sense of "two-ness"
Performance consciousness as societal development
Cohen – "Monster Studies"
- We can read a culture by its monster
- Monsters are a direct reflection of society
- Monster is embodiment of time, place, and feeling
- Threatens to smash distinctions; can't categorize
- Functions as dialectical other
- Serves as warning against exploring unknown
- Evokes desire; jealousy of freedom
- Force us to reevaluate conceptions; ask us why we created them
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Jane as monster
- Mental illness had her on "gates" estranged and turned into a monster
- Jane was non-conforming to her role in society, making her scary
View of self in vision of others
Bogost – "The Rhetoric of Video Games"
- Procedural Rhetoric is used in video games to make claims about the world
- No video game is created in a vacuum; all contain biases
Morton – "The Ecological Thought"
- All life forms are connected; philosophically, politically, and aesthetically
- "Nature" does not exist independently of the uglier, fake parts of life
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Connection between garden and home; nature is not split
The Yellow Wallpaper:
- Sexism as social construct to maintain control of subordinate class
Lopez – "The Social Construction of Race"
- Race is socially constructed with no basis in biology
- Fate of human rides on ancestry and appearance
- Resisting racial constructions can lead to freedoms from those constructions
Indigenous in Alaska had already established theory
African Americans constructed as monsters as a way to keep them oppressed and also warn others to stay away from them
In direct opposition to categorization, yet still interlock
Williams – Comity Agreement
- Split Alaska into sections for missionary groups/religions
Christianity spread
Alessa – What is Truth?
- Questioned Christianity
- Ecological Tradition against other traditions
- Shamans and intersections of faith
Mayac – "How it Feels to Have Your History Stolen"
- 'King Island Christmas' was appropriation and misrepresentation
Misrepresentation and stealing of culture and history
Fall – Dena'ina Elena
- History of the Athabaskan in the Dena'ina area; how culture was erased, tradition was gone, and Anchorage was born
Matrilineal system
Loss of culture at hands of others