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AUSTEN,

LECTURE #2

Thinking with Austen

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I. CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN IRONY AND THE SATIRIC FIELD

- A. Looking back: Irony is an important stylistic element that allows a writer to create the sense that narrator and reader are thinking together.
 - Consider example: "The real circumstances . . ." (86).
 - Mini-claim: The first extended reference to Dick Musgrove ironizes all further references, e.g., "Personal size and mental sorrow" (101).
- B. Irony is a means of creating the "satiric field."

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II. AUSTEN'S METHOD OF GAINING ACCESS TO INTERIOR SPACES

- A. What you already know
 - 1. Direct Discourse: quoting a speaker directly
 - --"When you come to a frigate, of course . . ." (103-4)
 - 2. Indirect Discourse: conveying a speaker's words indirectly: "There had been a time . . ." (175)

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II. AUSTEN'S METHOD OF GAINING ACCESS TO INTERIOR SPACES (CONT.)

- B. What is less familiar to you
 - 1. Free Indirect Discourse
 - "Mr. Elliot was rational, discreet, polished, -- but he was not open" (280-81).
 - 2. Compression of Discourse
 - "Charles, Henrietta, and Captain Wentworth were the three in consultation" (141).
 - "When the plan was made known to Mary, however" (142).

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III. THINKING AND FEELING

- A. Sentiments and sensations: a fusion not considered in Descartes' separation of body/mind
- B. Sentiments and sensations: Austen aims at representing a fusion of mental and psychological experience.
 - 1. "Such were Elizabeth Elliot's sentiments and sensations" (51)
 - 2. "They were actually on the same sofa" (101)
 - 3. See also 73, 111-2, 120, 173.

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IV. THINKING THROUGH

COMIC FORM

- A. The undeserving, trivial, conceited, arrogant, cold, deceitful, self-preoccupied, worthless characters (those most prominent in the "satiric field") are in power at the beginning of the novel.
- B. The work of the novel is to set things right by turning things upside down.
- C. **NB**: Setting things right does not equal solving the family/estate problem.

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V. THE READER AND THE COMMUNITY

- A. Access to interiority without losing contact with the social world
- B. The "satiric field" gives way to "harmony" and "good will" which is conveyed through

Anne's thinking (257).

- C. The alliance of reader and community is fundamental to comic form.

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Famous Women:
Austen is in good company.

Florence Nightingale.

Mrs. Siddons.

George Eliot.

Marie Antoinette.

Lady Hamilton.

Charlotte Bronte.

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