

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

The Department of Philosophy

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— INSTITUTE —



Present a Lecture & Seminar by:

Dr. Christopher Norris



Distinguished Research Professor in Philosophy, Cardiff University

Lecture: Monday, October 29, 5:30 PM

MacKinnon Room 306.

'William Empson as Critic-Philosopher'

ABSTRACT: William Empson is known chiefly - in so far as he is nowadays known at all - as the precocious author of the brilliantly subtle and perceptive (some would say waywardly inventive) 1930 book **Seven Types of Ambiguity**. My talk will make the case that philosophers of language have much to learn from Empson's close-focused analyses of poetry and his reflections on the role of ambiguity, paradox and contradiction in poetic and other kinds of utterance. I shall also suggest - in the main part of my talk - that in his later book, **The Structure of Complex Words** (1951), he went on to explore these issues in greater depth and with more pointed relevance to debates in philosophical semantics and philosophy of logic.

Everyone welcome! Refreshments after at the Bullring



Seminar: Tuesday, October 30, 10:30 -12:00 PM

Topic: Literary Theory & Deconstruction

TransCanada Institute

9 University Ave. East, University of Guelph

Limited seating. This event is free but please register for the seminar at

transcan@uoguelph.ca

(Light luncheon included)