

SYLLABUS

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This course surveys a range of concepts in theory and criticism from the classical period to the contemporary, focusing on recent developments that are essential for understanding and engaging in contemporary interpretation and analysis of texts. Readings and class discussion will look both at theoretical texts and at how theories and their assumptions manifest themselves in the process of reading. The emphasis will be on understanding theories as modes of questioning, and not as formulaic “approaches” to be “applied.” Course assessment is based primarily on examinations and critical analyses of texts.

Topics include: classical and romantic theory, Anglo-American New Criticism, structuralism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, reader-response criticism, poststructuralism and deconstruction, feminisms and gender theories, theories of race, ethnicity and nationalism, postcolonial theory, culture and ideological critique.

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**TEXTS:** —Selections from the *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (or other sources if the translations are better), supplemented with excerpts from other sources, including online videos and other material.  
—Texts will be provided in installments during the semester.

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Reading Assignments:** Readings will generally be assigned one week before they are to be discussed in class. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before class, and to bring it with them to class for discussion. It is expected that all reading will be done with the aid of a dictionary, and that students will ask for help if they have difficulty in understanding the material.

2. **Exams:** The mid-term and final exams will cover all assigned readings and all material covered in class. They may include identifications, short answers, multiple choice, definitions, and essays.

3. **Attendance and Punctuality:** Attendance of all classes is required; three hours will be excused. All students are expected to attend on time, and not to disturb the class once it has started; the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is not permitted.

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<b>GRADING:</b>	Mid-Term Exam:	45%
	Final Exam:	45%
	Attendance/Participation:	10%

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