

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 309A 001/Cultural Studies 371A 001

Course Topic: Modern Critical Theory and Interdisciplinary Methods

Credits: 3

Term: 2

Instructor: Dr. George C. Grinnell

Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

This course offers a survey of developments in the fields of Literary and Cultural Theory over the past 150 years. While theory is often used as a tool that structures a given methodology or approach to the study of culture, theory is also a field in its own right and this course emphasizes the emergence of theory as a field of study. We are not, in other words, primarily focused on learning new strategies and tactics in order to become more proficient readers of poems or digital culture, for example. We are investigating what theory is, what it does, what principles guide it, and what it can offer each one of us.

Tentative Reading List: (Be as concise as possible with your reading list, but please also specify the genre of each required text. See sample below)

Jonathan Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/literary-theory-a-very-short-introduction-9780199691340?cc=ca&lang=en&>

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: Volume 1*

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/55036/the-history-of-sexuality-by-michel-foucault/9780679724698>

Timothy Morton, *Being Ecological*

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/665567/being-ecological-by-timothy-morton/>

Other: