

English 720
Professor Mark Netzloff
Thursdays, 5:00-7:40

MODERN LITERARY THEORY

Fall 2023

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to a variety of critical practices of literary and cultural theory. As such, it is designed for students just beginning graduate study as well as those looking to expand their training with a broader survey of theoretical methodologies. Although much of our discussion will cover major intellectual and disciplinary shifts in English studies over the past several decades, we will also emphasize critical intersections and situate critics representing different theoretical traditions in dialogue with one another.

Critical readings will include essays by Marx, Benjamin, Bakhtin, Adorno and Horkheimer, Habermas, Barthes, Derrida, Foucault, Williams, Hall, Said, Jameson, Spivak, Latour, Bhabha, Butler, Sedgwick, Ahmed, Gates, hooks, Moretti, and Guillory, among others.

English 720 is a required course for the Literature and Cultural Theory MA. It also fulfills requirements for a course in cultural theory for the Plan A Ph.D. Nearly all our readings are included on one or more of the Preliminary Examination theoretical areas.

Texts:

Foucault, Michel, The Foucault Reader, ed. Paul Rabinow
The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Criticism and Theory
<https://litguide-press-jhu-edu.ezproxy.lib.uwm.edu/>

Course packet, available at Clark Graphics, 2915 N Oakland; all readings posted on Canvas

Course requirements:

Canvas postings (biweekly, 6 in all) -- 1/3

Participation -- 1/6

Final project (15-20 pp) --1/2

-self-designed, independent research relating to area of interest and potential specialization