TERM: Summer 2024 (Session 1)

COURSE TITLE: Theory, Power, and Rhetoric

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 2500.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR, 12:00-3:35

INSTRUCTOR: DERMOT RYAN

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Students are introduced to key concepts and critical frameworks within literary theory, rhetoric and critical cultural theory. Literary theory offers concepts and methods that help describe what is happening in literary texts and their contexts. Rhetoric offers students a range of thought, from classical understanding, such as the means of persuasion that writer or orator may use to move an audience, to more modern understandings in which rhetoric is a critique of power, a critique of ideologies that enforce distributions of power in the material world, and a critique of power that renders some communities powerful and others powerless. Critical cultural theory introduces students to the topic of power from the perspective of the vulnerable and the marginalized as articulated in critical race and ethnic studies, gender and queer theory, and postcolonial studies in order to understand how critical practices empower and challenge power.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

* Students can identify the methods or concepts of literary theory, rhetoric and critical cultural theory.
* Students will be able to read primary and secondary theoretical texts.
* Students will be introduced to ways that theory helps them write about different aspects of literary texts and their contexts.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A

REQUIRED TEXTS: TBD

COURSE WORK / EXPECTATIONS

* Class participation (showing you have read the material for each class and contributing positively in in-class workshops): 10%
* 1 short analysis (2-3 pages): 20%
* Summary of your chosen critical lens: 10%
* 1-page proposal: 10%
* 1 online presentation using a specific critical lens/reading method to read a novel/film/cultural object or practice: 30%
* Final exam (open book and untimed): 20%

**This course fulfills the following undergraduate English Major requirement:**

**Note: LD denotes a lower-division course and UD denotes an upper-division course.**

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| **OLD CURRICULUM** | **CHECK** | **NEW CURRICULUM** | **CHECK** |
| Genres (LD) |  | Disciplinary Research (LD) |  |
| Histories (LD) | **X** | **History of Literature, Media, and Culture (LD)** |  |
| Authors (UD) |  | Reading and Writing Genres (LD) |  |
| Critical/Theoretical (UD) |  | Theory, Power, and Rhetoric (LD) | **X** |
| Comparative (UD) |  | Pre-1800 (UD) |  |
| Creative/Artistry (UD) |  | Creative/Artistry (UD) |  |
|  |  | Race, Intersectionality, and Power (UD) |  |
|  |  | 5000-Level Seminar (UD) |  |