

TERM: Spring 2025

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 6605: Contemporary Critical Theory

COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Critical Theory

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: R 7:20 PM – 9:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: KJ Peters

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

The scope of this seminar includes critical thinking from the 1800s to contemporary critical interventions. Continental philosophy and the literary movements and theoretical perspectives informed by theorists such as Paul de Man, Walter Benjamin, and Gayatri C. Spivak will be our focus. Students may develop an understanding of literary analysis methods. However, the application of theory to literature is not a goal. We aim to examine a range of theoretical inquiries and debates concerning the unconscious, stylistics, genre, semiotics, subject formation, power, and the articulation of agency. The critical perspectives to be examined include Psychoanalytic Criticism, Marxism, Feminism, New Criticism, Structuralism, Deconstruction, Gender Criticism, African American Criticism, and Postcolonial Criticism.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this graduate-level course in Contemporary Critical Theory, students will:

- Demonstrate a Comprehensive Understanding of Key Theoretical Concepts: Articulate and apply key concepts and ideas from contemporary critical theories.
- Analyze and Critique Complex Texts: Develop the ability to critically analyze and engage with complex theoretical texts, identifying central arguments, theoretical frameworks, and historical contexts and offering thoughtful critiques and evaluations.
- Synthesize Multiple Theoretical Perspectives: Demonstrate the capacity to integrate and synthesize diverse theoretical perspectives, recognizing the intersections and divergences among different critical theories and employing this synthesis to address contemporary social, cultural, and political issues.
- Apply Critical Theories to Real-World Contexts: Apply critical theory to real-world contexts and current events, illustrating how these theories can provide insights and solutions for understanding and addressing pressing social and cultural issues.
- Construct Original Arguments: Construct original arguments and research questions informed by contemporary critical theory while using evidence and theoretical insights to support their claims.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Graduate Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

Select Recommended/Prerequisite Below

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- Critical Methodology
- Contemporary Critical Theory
- Major Writer / Genre / Literary Period
- Literature Elective
- Theory Elective
- Creative Writing Seminar
- Rhetoric / Composition Theory and Practice
- Linguistics OR Reading Theory