The study of literary and cultural theory can be an exciting adventure in intellectual discovery. Or it can be an alienating march through forests of impenetrable prose and incomprehensible ideas. The topics should be rich and engaging, including psychoanalysis, feminism, marxism, queer theory, postcolonial critique, visual culture, and critical race discourse (among others). Yet unless we connect these theories to real works of literature, film and, indeed, the way we make meaning out of our everyday lives, studying critical theory grows abstract and pointless. So this class will strive to help students make those connections, and to translate theory into practice. The variety of approaches sampled should give everyone an opportunity to evaluate which theories they find most interesting and valuable, and to explore chosen ones in greater depth.

- Seminar Discussion Format
- Frequent Short Reading Responses
- Final Essay

Textbooks:

When: Spring 2017
Where: Curtin Hall 368
Time: TTh 3:30-4:45
Contact: Prof. Gregory Jay (gjay@uwm.edu)