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 part of our discussion will cover major intellectual and disciplinary shifts in English studies over the past several decades, we will also focus on a series of debates or keywords, placing critics representing different theoretical traditions in dialogue with one another.

Critical readings will include essays by Marx, Benjamin, Bakhtin, Adorno and Horkheimer, Jauss, Lacan, Barthes, Derrida, Althusser, Foucault, Raymond Williams, Said, Jameson, Lyotard, Butler, Spivak, Haraway, Bhabha, Sedgwick, and Gates, 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 of the readings are included on one or more of the Preliminary Examination fields.

As a special feature this semester, members of the seminar will choose the topics and readings for two sessions.

Course work will consist of weekly postings to the course d2l site (1/6), leading of discussion for part of a session (1/6), active participation (1/6), and a final 15-page essay (1/2). This project will be independent research on a topic related to each student’s research interests.

All course readings will be accessible electronically on the course d2l site. For those preferring hard copies, readings will also be in a course packet available at Clark Graphics (2915 N Oakland).

For more information, please feel free to contact Professor Netzloff at netzloff@uwm.edu.