

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Theory

Course Number and Section

ENGLISH

2265F 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Blanchette

Instructor Email(s): sarah.blanchette@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

What is theory? Theory is the lens that we use to analyze literature and film. This course will introduce you to a variety of theoretical fields that you can utilize to analyze literary and cultural texts, such as post-structuralism, feminism, Marxism, queer, disability, Mad studies, post-colonial, and Indigenous theory.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Engage with a wide range of theoretical fields and challenge a monolithic understanding of different fields of study
- Recognize the intersections and conflicts between different theoretical fields
- Reflect on self-positionality and the relationship between identity and epistemology/knowledge
- Apply theoretical concepts to a literary or cultural text
- Practice articulating your close-reading and research of texts with peers and engaging in respectful dialogue about disparate interpretations through discussion and debate
- Develop your critical voice as a researcher and early scholar, who can meaningfully add to ongoing theoretical debates and conversations
- Complete a formal MLA-style essay, thus developing critical thinking, writing, and persuasion skills

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There are no textbooks or required costs for this course. All readings will be provided.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Debate	10/5/2026	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Midterm	11/02/2026	20
Essay	12/07/2026	25
Final Exam		30

Friday, August 14, 2026

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In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.