

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Theory

Course Number and Section:

ENGLISH

2265F 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Sarah Blanchette

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL 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 theory, crip, disability, and Mad studies, post-colonial, and Indigenous theory.

Learning Outcomes:

- Review a wide range of theoretical fields
- Recognize the intersections and conflicts between different theoretical fields by challenging an essentializing understanding of different fields of study
- 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 research paper, thus developing transferrable skills for project management and research capacities

Textbooks and Course Materials:

No textbooks are required for this course. All readings will be provided.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Reflection	10/02/2025	15
Debate	11/11/205	20
Research Essay	12/09/2025	25
Final Exam		30

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

Tuesday, August 12, 2025