Course Purpose: This course is intended to provide you with an overview of the schools of literary theory that are currently used to analyze literary and cultural texts, ranging from post-structuralism to Gender Theory and Cultural Studies.

Course Requirements: Course grades will be based on a midterm (35%), a final exam (35%), and three two page response papers (30%).

The Response Papers: Should consist of a two page typed analysis of an essay from the course reading assignments. These should not summarize the reading but should engage it intellectually. In other words, a response to a particular essay should do one or more of the following: critique the essay, apply it to a literary or cultural text, or relate it to previous reading in the course. Also, if an essay proves exceptionally difficult, your response paper on that essay could present some focused, specific questions on points that you did not understand.

Attendance: You are allowed three absences. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.

Assignments:

Tues., January 15: Course Introduction
Thursday, Jan. 17: Introductory Lecture: Structuralism and Semiotics

Poststructuralism and Deconstruction:


Response 1 Due
Thurs., Jan 31: Application Day

Psychoanalysis:


Thurs., Feb. 14: Application Day

Marxism/Materialist Criticism:

Tues., Feb. 19: Day Off
Response 2 Due


New Historicism:


Tues., March 12: Application Day
Thurs., March 14: Midterm

Feminism, Gender Studies, and Queer Theory:


Spring Break
Tues., April 2: Michel Foucault, "The History of Sexuality," pp. 892-899
Thurs. April 4: Day Off

**Ethnic Studies/Postcolonial Theory:**


Tues., April 16: Alan Lawson, "The Anxious Proximities..." pp. 1210-1223
Thurs., April 18: Application Day

**Cultural Studies:**


Tues., April 30: Review Day
Thurs., May 2: Final