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:

Thursday, Jan. 9: Course Introduction

Poststructuralism and Deconstruction:

Tues., January 14: Introductory Lecture


Response 1 Due
Thurs., Jan 30: Application Day

Psychoanalysis:


Thurs., Feb. 13: Application Day

Marxism/Materialist Criticism:

Response 2 Due
Thurs., Feb. 20: Day Off

Thurs., Feb. 27: Alan Sinfield, "Cultural Materialism," pp. 750-762

Tues., March 4: Review Day
Thurs., March 6: Midterm

Spring Break

New Historicism:

Thurs., March 20: Day Off
Feminism, Gender Studies, and Queer Theory:

Thurs., March 27: Michel Foucault, "The History of Sexuality," pp. 892-899

Ethnic Studies/Postcolonial Theory:


Tues., April 8: Alan Lawson, "The Anxious Proximities..." pp. 1210-1223
Thurs. April 10: Application Day

Cultural Studies:


Tues., April 22: Review Day
Thurs., April 24: Final