

ARTS3047

Contemporary Critical and Cultural Theory

Term 3, 2021



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sigi Jottkandt	s.jottkandt@unsw.edu.au	by appointment	Webster 311J	x5846

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

This course introduces you to some of the central texts and concepts in the key intellectual movements and theories from the early twentieth century to the present as these bear on literary analysis. You will examine a range of related issues including:

1. how the very assumptions of language, communication and meaning have been questioned from early twentieth century to the present;
2. the re-conception of identity and its impact on literary construction;
3. the ways political structures construct the relationship between human subjects and objects such as commodities.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. deploy theoretical texts in literary analysis
2. compare various theoretical positions and approaches
3. conduct research in the area of contemporary critical theory
4. write a clear and fluent essay engaged with theoretical issues
5. work independently and in collaboration

Teaching Strategies


This course is informed by an approach to teaching and learning that fosters interactivity, student agency and the pleasure of knowledge. It promotes new ways for students to develop productive possibilities from the disciplinary bases of their study and to recognise the potential in interdisciplinary engagement in the humanities. As a third year course, it promotes independent learning as reflected in student-focussed seminars, the emphasis on research, and the course symposium. There will be a one-hour lecture each week. A lecture is more than a presentation of information; it is an active and interactive forum where ideas and reading practices are rehearsed, tested and challenged. It is the site where students encounter the conventions of presenting academic research and staging academic debate. Lecture attendance is supported by two revision tools: echo360 and on-line material posted in the week after the lecture. Neither of these supports is a replacement for attendance. The echo360 is a record of an event not a summary of information. In keeping with the objectives of third-year study, the seminar mode provides a more independent and collaborative learning environment. While fully supported and directed, the seminar allows students to assume increased responsibility for the direction of each class and for the formulation of research tasks. They are also able to critically reflect on their own processes of learning, which is of particular importance in a course introducing new critical reading practices. The seminar requires each student to undertake: preparation, including some collaboration with other students; discussion and presentations; collaborative work in small groups. Towards the end of the course we will hold a themed Symposium in place of seminars. Pre-arranged groups will each give a 12 minute presentation on a topic that has been approved by the convenor. This will enable students to engage with the full range of topics and interests raised in the course and to situate their own position as an intervention in an academic discussion. This course is supported by Learning Management System components, providing course information and updates, copies of texts and additional links to related scholarly resources, online discussion groups for group work.

Assessment

My preferred referencing style for the Major essay is Modern Languages Association (MLA style). For examples of how to use this, see

<https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide/>

<http://library.concordia.ca/help/citing/mla.php>

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Blog Reflection task	20%	11/11/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 5
2. Symposium Presentation 	30%	19/11/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4
3. Major essay	50%	25/10/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Assessment 1: Blog Reflection task

Assessment length: 1000

Due date: 11/11/2021 11:59 PM

1000 words in total. Locate a cultural or literary text and write a reflection on it, exploring how it illustrates one of the theoretical concepts from the course. Do this for three different weekly topics. You may not blog on the topic of your Symposium presentation but may blog on the theoretical concept you deal with in your major essay.

Submission notes: Staggered submissions on course reader blog from week 2.

Written feedback and numerical grade via LMS.

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

Please consult Moodle for the link to the course blog.

Assessment 2: Symposium Presentation (Group)

Due date: 19/11/2021 11:00 PM

The Symposium is a mini-conference run by the students towards the end of the course. Students are organised into groups and meet online and face to face to prepare their presentation on a text from the final module in the course. Students submit the script of their presentation and an individual analysis of their research contribution to the group. This is the final assessment task. Students receive a mark sheet that details two grades: one for the group work as a whole and one for their individual contribution.

Written feedback and numerical grade via LMS.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

Our Symposium will be held on the last day of class, and your performance scripts and analysis of your research contribution are due on 19 November, 11pm.

Assessment 3: Major essay

Due date: 25/10/2021 11:00 PM

2500 words. This is the final assessment task.

Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

Essay questions are available on Moodle from Week 2.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 13 September - 17 September	Lecture	Introduction to Critical Theory and Structuralism
	Seminar	Roland Barthes, 'Rhetoric of the Image' Jean Baudrillard 'The Precession of Simulacra'
Week 2: 20 September - 24 September	Lecture	Feminism
	Seminar	Helene Cixous, 'The Laugh of the Medusa' Julia Kristeva, Chapter 1, from <i>The Kristeva Reader</i> ("The System and the Speaking Subject", pp. 24-33)
Week 3: 27 September - 1 October	Lecture	Psychoanalysis
	Seminar	Sigmund Freud, 'The Uncanny' E.T.A. Hoffman, 'The Sandman'
Week 4: 4 October - 8 October	Lecture	Post-colonialism
	Seminar	Homi Bhabha, 'Signs taken for wonders' Edward Said, 'Orientalism'
Week 5: 11 October - 15 October	Lecture	New Historicism
	Seminar	Michel Foucault, 'Panopticism' (additional reading: Gilles Deleuze, 'Post-script on the societies of control') Stephen Greenblatt, 'Resonance and Wonder'
Week 6: 18 October - 22 October	Reading	Flex Week. No lectures or seminars.
Week 7: 25 October - 29 October	Lecture	Marxism
	Seminar	Fredric Jameson, from <i>The Political Unconscious</i> , pp.74-102 Claude Levi-Strauss, "A Native Society and its

		Style" from <i>Tristes Tropiques</i> , pp. 160-180.
Week 8: 1 November - 5 November	Lecture	The New Criticism
	Seminar	Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren, 'Poetry as a way of Saying' Plato, <i>Cratylus</i> Brooks 'The Primacy of the Linguistic Medium'
Week 9: 8 November - 12 November	Lecture	Post-structuralism
	Seminar	Jacques Derrida, 'Plato's Pharmacy' Plato, 'Phaedrus' Deleuze and Guattari, 'Introduction' to <i>A Thousand Plateaus: "Rhizome"</i> Butler, <i>Gender Trouble</i> , ch 1: 'Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire'
Week 10: 15 November - 19 November	Assessment	Critical Theory Symposium

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Most of the required texts are from the *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, 2nd edition (2010), extracts available on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Other recommended texts:

Literary Theory: An Anthology, 2nd Edition 2nd Edition, eds. Julie Rivkin , Michael Ryan (Blackwell, 2004)

The Post-Colonial Studies Reader 2nd Edition, eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin (Routledge, 2007)

Course Evaluation and Development

I will be periodically gathering student feedback on the course through various means, including student feedback in lectures and seminars as well as the MyExperience system. I would appreciate it if you would take a minute at the end of the course to provide your responses.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has [the ELISE tool](#) available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

René Magritte 'The Human Condition'

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ren%C3%A9_Magritte_The_Human_Condition.jpg#filelinks

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