



Australia's  
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University



# ARTS3047

Contemporary Critical and Cultural Theory

Semester One // 2018

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sigi Jottkandt	s.jottkandt@unsw.edu.au	Mondays at 4	Webster 311J	x56813

### School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

### Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

### Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; 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/>

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *English*

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.

### At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

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 Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major essay	50%	31/05/2018 05:00 PM	1,2,3,4,5
Research task	20%	31/05/2018 05:00 PM	1,2,3,5
Symposium	30%	22/05/2018	1,2,3,5

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Major essay

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2500 words

**Details:** 2500 words. This is the final assessment task. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade.

**Submission notes:** Turnitin

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

### Assessment 2: Research task

**Start date:** Week 2

**Length:** 1000 (3x approx 300 words)

**Details:** 1000 words in total. Locate three scholarly essays and write a 300 word abstract for each essay to post on the online course reader. Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade.

**Submission notes:** Staggered submissions on course reader blog from week 2, final posts included with Major Essay.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### **Assessment 3: Symposium**

**Start date:** 10/04/2018

**Length:** Equivalent of 1000 words

**Details:** 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. 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.

**Additional details:**

In 2018, the Critical Symposium will take place in two halves. The first half will occur in the week following mid-semester break, and the second in Week 12.

**Submission notes:** In-class group and individual assessments

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

## Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- \* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- \* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- \* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

\* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

## 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 also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, 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:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and 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 also 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

(<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>)

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 26 February - 4 March	Lecture	Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory: What is Theory?
	Seminar	Readings: Roland Barthes and Jean Baudrillard
Week 2: 5 March - 11 March	Lecture	Feminism
	Seminar	Readings: Helene Cixous and Julia Kristeva
Week 3: 12 March - 18 March	Lecture	Psychoanalysis
	Seminar	Readings: Sigmund Freud and E.T.A. Hoffmann
Week 4: 19 March - 25 March	Lecture	Postcolonialism
	Seminar	Readings: Homi Bhabha and Edward Said
Week 5: 26 March - 1 April	Lecture	New Historicism
	Seminar	Readings: Michel Foucault, Stephen Greenblatt and Gilles Deleuze
Break: 2 April - 8 April	Reading	
	Reading	
Week 6: 9 April - 15 April	Presentation	Critical Theory Symposium 1
Week 7: 16 April - 22 April	Lecture	The New Criticism
	Seminar	Readings: Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren
Week 8: 23 April - 29 April	Lecture	Post-structuralism
	Seminar	Readings: Jacques Derrida and Plato
Week 9: 30 April - 6 May	Lecture	Post-post-structuralism
	Seminar	Gilles Deleuze, Felix Guattari and Judith Butler
Week 10: 7 May - 13 May	Lecture	Marxism
	Seminar	Fredric Jameson
Week 11: 14 May - 20 May	Project	Planning week
Week 12: 21 May - 27 May	Presentation	Critical Theory Symposium 2

## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

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

### 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.

### Image Credit

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Human\\_Condition\\_%28Magritte%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Human_Condition_%28Magritte%29)

## CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G