



# Short Syllabus

Course Title	Credits
Critical Theory	4
<b>Lecturer</b>	
Dr. Robin Shochat Bagon	
<b>Contact details</b>	
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<b>Semester</b>	
Spring	
<b>Short Description</b>	
<p>Critical theory combines ideas and techniques from philosophy, sociology, political science and psychology in order to fashion a set of tools which allow us to read texts in a nuanced, sophisticated and sometimes surprising manner. These texts are not limited to traditional print-based language, but include almost everything including novels, films, adverts, fashion, dreams, bodies and nonhumans. This course introduces students to the major areas of modern theory including semiology, Marxism, feminism, psychoanalysis, queer theory, eco criticism, poststructuralism and posthumanism. Along the way, we address questions such as: How does language create meaning? What are we missing when we look at a table? Why are humans doomed to misery? What do drag queens tell us about the way we behave? What happens when we return the gaze of a cat? What comes after postmodernism?</p>	
<b>Final grade components</b>	
<p>Minor assignments: Students are required to demonstrate active engagement with the readings on the Pangea platform (10%)</p> <p>Midterm: Short paper (4-5 pages) (30%)</p> <p>Final requirement: Final paper (10-12 pages) (60%)</p>	
<b>Attendance</b>	
<p>Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*</p>	
<b>Academic Conduct</b>	
<p>Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.*</p>	
<b>Final assignment</b>	



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Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.\*

## **Additional requirements**

While use of laptops is permitted, phones must be kept in bags and use of email, social media etc. is deemed extremely disrespectful to the professor and students and is strictly forbidden.

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\* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details