



COURSE DESCRIPTION

2016 Winter Session (2016-2017 Academic Year)

ENGL 409K-002: Theory as a 'History of the Present': Theory Boot Camp for New & Old Hands - Lorraine Weir

Modern Critical Theories

Term 1

MWF, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Organizing theory as what Foucault called a "history of the present," ENGL 409 begins with four foundational contributors to contemporary theory --Saussure, Heidegger, Foucault, and Derrida-- and then considers major theoretical modalities like Structuralism, Poststructuralism, Postcolonial theory and Critical Race Theory. In the second part of the course, we'll focus on selections from a variety of contemporary theorists including Ahmed, Spivak, Anzaldua, Bhabha, and Yancy. While lectures will be a major component of the course, there will be opportunities for group and individual presentations as well as discussion throughout the course. If you're new to theory, you should expect a fairly steep learning curve and a good foundation for more advanced work in theory. N.B.: ENGL 409 is not a 'literature' course. Interested students are welcome regardless of their Major.