

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2016-2017 MLCS 652/ EASIA 507: Critical Theory II/ Contemporary  
Currents in Literary and Cultural Theory**  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Ruetalo  
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Time: Wednesday 2:00-4:50pm  
Place: T-B 100  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Course Website: on E-class

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**Course Prerequisite:** Consent of Department

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes       No

**Course Description and Objectives:**

A varied, international and transcultural approach to the thinkers and texts in cultural studies and critical theory of the second half of the 20th Century to the present. The course will favour an open-ended approach to the canon and will showcase the new directions and contemporary questions that define the field today. Students will read primary texts.

At the end of the course successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a general knowledge of development of theoretical trends in cultural theory.
- Engage with multiple cultural perspectives relating to such material.
- Evaluate ethical and social issues relating to the analysis of different types of texts.

- Debate and deconstruct underlying theories and how these work with different types of texts.
- Demonstrate advanced critical research and writing skills.
- Conduct research of different texts using both primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze, argue, and communicate ideas in both written and oral formats.
- Formulate research questions and evaluate the appropriateness of using relevant theoretical and methodological approaches.
- Accept constructive feedback and revise work accordingly.
- Work collaboratively in a shared environment to achieve a common goal.

**Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, Second Edition. Ed. Vincent B. Leitch, Geroge Lynn Cross, and Paul and Carol Daube. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010. (Many of these readings are available online).

Recommended readings will be available on E-class.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

<b>Short Papers</b>	Each student will hand in two reaction papers of <b>three to five (3-5)</b> pages in length. The purpose of these assignments is to demonstrate the student’s ability to express him or herself critically in written form in reaction to one of the articles read. Reaction Paper #1 will be due on <b>February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017</b> . Reaction Paper #2 will be due on <b>March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017</b> .	<b>20%</b>
<b>Oral Presentation</b>	Oral presentations will be scheduled. Each student will present a theoretical concept through the close reading of one article and open the discussion for the day. Presentations should be clear and short (30 minutes is the maximum length). Since these presentations are dealing with complex theoretical articles students must prepare well in advance and be familiar with the material for the day and the context of the article. Once a student signs up for a presentation the student is responsible for presenting on the assigned date	<b>20%</b>
<b>Participation</b>	Class attendance is important and thus it is to the benefit of the student to attend class prepared to contribute to discussions, make comments, and ask questions. This will make the learning experience more enjoyable for all of us. Throughout the semester there will be in- class assignments, group work, class and online discussions and forums.	<b>10%</b>
<b>Final Paper</b>	Students will write a research paper (18-20 pages), with <b>at least 10 secondary sources</b> , on a topic of choice. This should include an analysis of a given text by thinking through one of the different theory discussed in this course. Students are encouraged to discuss topics with the professor. The final paper will be due on <b>April 21, 2017</b> .	<b>50%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

***Academic Integrity:***

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> ) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

***Academic Honesty:***

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general. If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult in advance with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, late assignments with no prior arrangement will receive a 5%-per-class-day penalty for each subsequent class day of lateness.

***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).

***Grading:***

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student’s level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Graduate Grading Scale”**

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure