One of the major and growing areas of critical theory is centered around neoliberalism. What, though, does this term mean? And why might literary critics find it useful? This course will be focused on these two questions. The course will begin by reading a variety of the texts central to the discourse on neoliberalism. Readings for this section of the course will be taken from a variety of disciplinary and historical perspectives, offering a sense of the breadth of thinking that surrounds the term. They will include selections chosen from the following: Giorgio Agamben, Wendy Brown, Colin Crouch, Michel Foucault, Milton Friedman, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, David Harvey, Engin Isin, Maurizio Lazzaratto, Timothy Mitchell, Aihwa Ong, Karl Polanyi. We will then proceed to consider particularly literary and cultural studies approaches to this topic. How have literary and cultural critics made use of neoliberal theory? What does it illuminate? What does it obscure? While readings for this section will remain primarily theoretical, students will be encouraged to bring particular literary and cultural texts to bear on our discussions. Readings will include selections by the following: Akinwumi Adesokan, Sara Ahmed, Walter Benn Michaels, Nicholas Brown, Judith Butler, Guy Debord, Lisa Duggan, Frederic Jameson, Jeffrey Nealon, Arundhati Roy.