This course examines some of the most trenchant theoretical topics and trends to emerge in the last five years. Linking itself to conference programs, the course familiarizes students with the newer directions of theory in the academy and has them evaluate the usefulness of these theories for their own study of literature. In particular, the course will track the origins and development of 5 major trends: 1) Biopolitics, Necropolitics and Vitalism; 2) Indigeneity and Settler Colonialism; 3) Affect Theory; 4) the decolonial turn and the current state of Postcolonial Studies; 5) gay rights and queer of color critique. Reading selected works across the disciplines of literature, anthropology, philosophy, among others, students will be able to see how these trends/theories develop and how they are applied. They will be asked to formulate questions and objects of analysis that reconcile the gap between the interdisciplinary turn in theory and their own particular field of study or line of inquiry. Through a series of invited discussions (via Skype) students will have the opportunity to hear directly from scholars working in these areas.