

Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Robert Griffin

Course: ENGL 401

Title: Contemporary Literary Theory

Description: Critical theory and practice flourished in the twentieth century together with the study of literature in the university. This course covers many of the central texts in this development. The syllabus is organized to trace most of the major developments in relation to each other.

At the end of the course you will have acquired knowledge of this rich tradition as well as an increased awareness of your own critical assumptions about language, literature, and the social construction of identities such as race, class, and gender.

Proposed Readings: Saussure, Althusser, Barthes, Derrida, Foucault, Spivak, among others.