Prerequisite: ENGL 205 with a C or better; or permission of instructor.

In this course we will discuss various schools of literary theory, including deconstruction, phenomenology, and structuralism – as well as different feminist and cultural theories.

We will read some of the central texts of literary theory since 1965, including works by Derrida, Fish, Foucault, Cixous, and Bakhtin.

This course will provide you with the background knowledge you will need in theory if you intend to attend graduate school in English. No intention to pursue graduate studies is required, however.

For this course you will write reading responses in which you summarize the theories, ask questions, and apply the theories to works of literature; you will also write two papers: one analyzing your own theoretical approach and another analyzing a published journal essay.

“From the moment that there is meaning there are nothing but signs. We think only in signs.” – Derrida Of Grammatology

“In other words, while relativism is a position one can entertain, it is not a position one can occupy” – Fish Is There a Text in This Class?

“Woman must write her self: must write about women and bring women to writing, from which they have been driven away as violently as from their bodies” – Cixous The Laugh of the Medusa