

LITERARY THEORY

Instructor: Chien-heng Wu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to major theoretical approaches as well as key contemporary issues. The overall aim is to help student develop critical strategies for engaging with literary and cultural texts, paying to both literary and extra-literary dimensions of these texts. This course is organized around specific ideas and concepts that have shaped literary studies in the 21st century. That is to say, instead of organizing the course either chronologically or into different “-isms,” this course engages with a set of related theoretical issues concerning the individual and the collective, the particular and the universal, power and resistance, difference and relationality, human and nonhuman, subject and object, etc. In general, we will work through these topics and see how they shatter the received knowledge and open up different ways of interpreting the world and the text. Rather than attempting to settle the debate among different theoretical paradigms, the aim is to help students understand core issues involved in the different permutations of a given topic. Throughout the course of our investigation, we will maintain a constant vigilance regarding the ethico-political implications of these important issues—asking not only speculative questions concerning its metaphysical underpinning but also political questions that will force us to negotiate a way between the speculative and the actual.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will gain a better grasp of contemporary cultural and critical theories.
2. Students will be able to think critically and creatively.
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply relevant theoretical perspectives to literary and cultural texts.

GRADING

- Participation: 35%
- Presentation: 20%
- Midterm: 15%

- Final: 30%

* Please apply for a free Office365 account at <http://learning.cc.nthu.edu.tw/p/412-1319-12292.php?Lang=zh-tw>. After registration, please download the application Teams. I will set up a forum for online discussion and communication.

GENERATIVE AI USAGE POLICY

In this course, we encourage the responsible and ethical use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, to assist in the learning process. These tools can be valuable for generating ideas, providing inspiration, and enhancing your understanding of course material. However, it is crucial that students transparently indicate where and how AI-generated content has been used in their work.

To promote academic integrity and ensure appropriate use of AI tools, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Citing AI-generated content: If you use any AI-generated content in your assignments, papers, presentations, or other course-related work, you must clearly cite the AI tool used as a source. Include the name of the AI tool, version, and date of access in your citation. For example:

Generated with the assistance of ChatGPT-4, OpenAI, accessed on May 5, 2023.
2. Originality and authenticity: While incorporating AI-generated content is allowed, it should not be the sole basis for your work. You are expected to use your own thoughts, ideas, and understanding of the course material to create original and authentic work. AI-generated content should be supplementary and contribute to your overall argument or analysis.
3. Collaborative use of AI tools: If you are working on a group project or engaging in a class discussion, ensure that all group members or participants are aware of the use of AI-generated content. Discuss and evaluate the generated content together, to promote transparency and shared understanding.
4. Ethical considerations: Be mindful of the potential biases and limitations of AI-generated content. Always critically evaluate the accuracy, relevance, and ethical implications of AI-generated content before incorporating it into your work.
5. Continuous learning and reflection: Use AI-generated content as a tool to expand your knowledge and understanding of the course material, rather than as a shortcut to complete assignments. Reflect on how the AI-generated content has contributed to your learning process and consider what you have learned from the interaction.

By adhering to these guidelines, you will be able to harness the power of generative AI in a responsible and ethical manner, while ensuring academic integrity and maintaining a focus on your own learning and development.

* This policy is generated with the help of ChatGPT-4, accessed May 05, 2023.

SCHEDULE

Week	Schedule
01	General Introduction
02	Jonathan Culler, <i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i>
03	Karl Marx, "The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" Karl Marx, <i>Capital Vol. 1</i> (Chap. 1 Part I, II, IV)
04	Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, <i>Multitude</i>
05	Frantz Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>
06	Frantz Fanon, <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>
07	Review Session
08	Mid-Term
09	Michel Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i>
10	Shoshana Zuboff, <i>The Age of Surveillance Capitalism</i>
11	Yuk Hui, <i>Recursivity and Contingency</i>
12	Catherine Malabou, <i>What Should We Do with Our Brain?</i>
13	Bruno Latour, "Why Has Critique Run out of Steam?" Michel Foucault, "What Is Critique?"
14	Covid-19: Theoretical Perspectives
15	Review Session
16	Final