

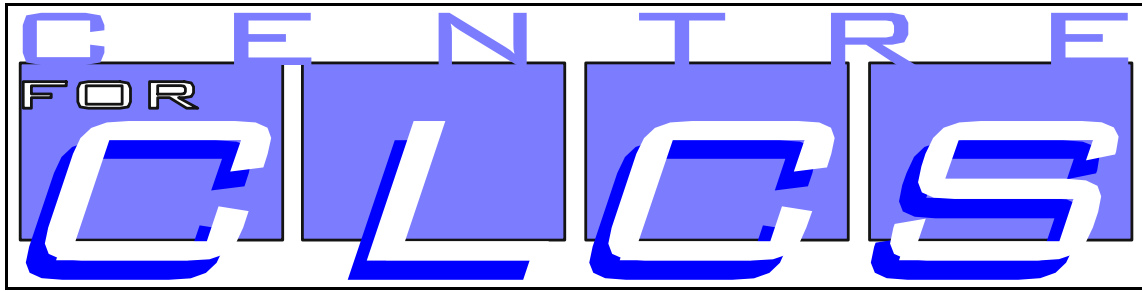


MONASH University
Arts



Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

Masters in Critical Theory



Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

Monash University

**MASTERS IN
CRITICAL THEORY
2009**

MA IN CRITICAL THEORY

Critical Theory is a loose umbrella term used to describe a whole series of contemporary approaches to textual criticism: hermeneutics and reception theory, semiotics and structuralism, post-structuralism and deconstruction, post-marxian theories of ideology and post-Freudian theories of psychoanalysis. These have all been central to recent work in literary and cultural studies.

The MA in Critical Theory is designed to provide students with an introduction to this complex body of work and an opportunity to apply it to a substantive research thesis, which may focus on literary studies, cultural studies or critical theory itself.

THE CENTRE

The Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary research and teaching unit with an international reputation for the quality of its postgraduate education. The Centre draws on academic staff from the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics and the School of Literary, Visual and Performance Studies, to conduct its research and teaching. Many of the staff have internationally recognised research profiles in literary and cultural studies or critical theory.

RESEARCH SEMINAR

The Centre runs a regular Wednesday afternoon **Research Seminar**, which has hosted a wide range of distinguished scholars from Australia and overseas (including Alain Badiou, Ross Chambers, Jacques Derrida, Terry Eagleton, Elizabeth Grosz, Geoffrey Hartman, Agnes Heller, Michèle Le Doeuff, Gayatri Cakravorty Spivak and Sigrid Weigel). MA students are expected to participate in the Centre's research seminar.

Scholarships for research in Comparative Literature, Literary and Cultural Theory, Continental Philosophy

The Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary research centre, specialising in Comparative Literature, Literary and Cultural Theory, and Continental Philosophy. CCLCS offers the PhD degree by research only and by research and coursework, an MA degree by research, an MA in Critical Theory by coursework and research and a PG Diploma (Research) in Critical Theory. The postgraduate subjects taught cover the work of critical and cultural theorists such as Adorno, Benjamin, Bourdieu, Deleuze, Derrida, Foucault, Irigaray, Jameson, Kristeva, Said, Spivak, Williams and Žižek. Check the centre's website for further details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cclcs/pgrad/>

CCLCS provides the following resources to candidates enrolled in its postgraduate programs:

- Regular research seminars
- Postgraduate workstations
- Financial support for conferences and fieldwork
- *Colloquy* a fully-refereed postgraduate journal
- An annual Postgraduate Colloquium.

Postgraduate Scholarships for Research on Utopia, Dystopia and Science Fiction

The Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies invites applicants for ARC Discovery Postgraduate Research Awards (for either PhD or MA candidates) to undertake research on utopia, dystopia and science fiction. Possible research projects include: utopia, dystopia and theology in Bloch, Benjamin and Adorno; post-structuralism and utopianism from Deleuze to Negri; utopia and science fiction in Jameson and Williams; culture and ecology in the Australian utopian imagination; myth, religion and utopia.

Scholarship: Tax-free stipend of \$20,007 pa (2008) plus project support funding. Applicants must have a First Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline or equivalent qualifications, and an interest in the research area.

Top Up Scholarships

In 2009 the Centre will offer several top up scholarships of \$10,000 pa to students who commence work on a PhD in the Centre and who hold an APA. These will be offered to students who want to work with the Centre's key research scholars on nominated topics.

For further information on research topics for both scholarships see

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cclcs/pgrad/index.php#scholarships>

For further details contact: Professor Andrew Milner, Graduate Coordinator, Tel (03) 9905 2979, email: Andrew.Milner@arts.monash.edu.au **Applications close 31 October 2008.**

COURSE STRUCTURE

Coursework and Research

The MA in Critical Theory by research and coursework consists of two twelve-point coursework units and a 20,000-25,000 word research thesis. The degree will normally be completed in one and a half years of full-time study or three years of part-time study.

Coursework Units

CRT6000 Critical Theory: A Survey*
CRT6010 Critical Theory: An Approach*
CRT6020 Critical Theory: A Theorist*
CRT5030 Poetics
CRT5070 Lacan and Subjectivity
CRT5100 Deleuze and Foucault
CRT5200 Semiotics and Poststructuralism
CRT5225 Hermeneutics

* MA candidates must obtain permission from the Director in order to enrol in these subjects.

The Thesis

The choice of thesis topic will be made in close consultation with a thesis supervisor. Candidates intending to carry out research in comparative literature are normally expected to read literary texts in the original language. The Centre welcomes applications from students with good linguistic abilities.

Entry requirements

Candidates for admission to the MA should normally hold a first class or second class division A honours degree or a first class or second class division A PG Diploma (Research), or equivalent, with a grade of Distinction or above for the research component.

COURSEWORK TEACHING STAFF

Andrew Benjamin is Professor of Critical Theory. He has been Professor of Philosophy at Warwick University, Visiting Professor of Architectural Theory at Columbia University and Visiting Critic at the Architectural Association in London. His many books include *What is Deconstruction?* (1988), *Art, Mimesis and the Avant-Garde* (1991), *Present Hope: Philosophy, Architecture, Judaism* (1997) and *Philosophy's Literature* (2001). He also edited *The Lyotard Reader* (1989), *Abjection, Melancholia and Love: the Work of Julia Kristeva* (1990) and *Walter Benjamin's Philosophy: Destruction and Experience* (1993).

Rose Lucas is Senior Lecturer in English, where she teaches and researches in the areas of literature, gender, psychoanalysis and poetics. She is the author of *Bridgings: Readings in Australian Women's Poetry* (1996). Her current research project is entitled *Fields of Indigo: Harvests of Loss and Consolation in Recent Women's Poetry*.

Andrew Milner is Professor of Cultural Studies. He previously taught at the London School of Economics, Goldsmiths College London and the University of Leeds. He is the author of *John Milton and the English Revolution* (1981), *The Road to St Kilda Pier* (1984), *Cultural Materialism* (1993), *Literature, Culture and Society* (1996), *Class* (1999), *Re-Imagining Cultural Studies* (2002) and *Contemporary Cultural Theory* (2002). He also edited *Postmodern Conditions* (1988) and *Discourse and Difference* (1990).

Alison Ross is Lecturer in Critical Theory. She has published on contemporary French philosophy, aesthetics and feminist theory in journals such as the *Journal of the British Society for Studies in Phenomenology*, the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* and *Hypatia*, and, more recently, in *The Edinburgh Encyclopaedia of Modern Criticism and Theory* (2002). She is currently working on the Kantian influence on contemporary theories of fine art.

Millicent Vladiv-Glover is Associate Professor in Slavic, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. She is the author of *Narrative Principles in Dostoevsky's Devils: A Structural Analysis* (1979), *Lirska drama slovenskog modernizma* (1997), *Russian Postmodernism* (1999) and *Romani Dostojevskog kao Diskurs Transgresije i Pozude* (2001). She is also Editor-in-Chief of the *Dostoevsky Journal: An Independent Review*.

THESIS SUPERVISORS AND THEIR FIELDS OF INTEREST

Michael Ackland	German and Anglophone romanticism, Australian literature, postcolonial studies
Phillip Anderson	Contemporary French literature, semiotics, structuralism, narrative theory
Andrew Benjamin	Walter Benjamin; philosophy and the visual arts, especially work on painting; philosophical aspects of 19 th and 20 th century Jewish thought, especially Rosenzweig and Levinas; history of philosophy, especially ancient philosophy, Hegel, 19 th century German philosophy
Denise Cuthbert	Gender and cultural difference, postcoloniality, indigeneity, contemporary cultural studies
Gloria Davies	Chinese and diasporic literature, postcolonial theory, literary theory, twentieth-century Chinese history and culture, critical inquiry in China
Franz-Josef Deiters	History of German literature from the 18th century to the present within the context of European cultural history, the theory of authorship, the theory and history of drama and theatre, the intersections of literature and philosophy, and the cultural anthropology of work
Maryanne Dever	Postcolonialism, women's writing, feminist literary theory, feminist pedagogy, cultural studies, Australian studies
Axel Fliethmann	Foucault, Bourdieu, sociology of knowledge, systems theory, literature and media studies
Michael Janover	Modernism, culture and politics
Rose Lucas	Feminist poetics, gender and cinema, contemporary women's literature
Andrew Milner	Literature and politics, literature and society, utopia, dystopia and science fiction, cultural materialism and cultural studies, Marxist and post-Marxist critical theory
Brian Nelson	Naturalism and Decadence in French literature, translation studies

Nina Philadelphoff-Puren	Feminist theory, feminist legal scholarship, law and literature, discourse analysis, cultural studies
Marko Pavlyshyn	Post-Soviet postcolonialism, rhetoric
Kate Rigby	Romanticism, ecophilosophy, ecocriticism, ecotheology
David Roberts	Modernism, Marxist critical theory, German philosophy and literature
Alison Ross	Aesthetics and theories of the fine arts (also classical and modern theories of theatrical representation); modern European and contemporary European philosophy, especially in the fields of moral and aesthetic theory
Susanna Scarparo	Italian studies, feminist literature, feminist intellectuals
Walter Veit	Hermeneutics, comparative literary theory, rhetoric, history of ideas
Con Verevis	Film theory, new Hollywood, Japanese popular culture, cultural studies, television studies
Millicent Vladiv-Glover	Modernism/postmodernism in European (French, German, Slavic) literature and film; the poetics of Realism in the Russian, French and English literary canon; Dostoevsky's novel and the phenomenology of meaning
Christiane Weller	Travel literature, colonial literature, <i>fin de siecle</i> , psychoanalytic theory, German literature since unification
Deane Williams	Australian film and television, documentary film theory and history, postcolonial film, cultural studies
Chris Worth	Narrative studies, poststructuralist literary theory, literature and the visual arts, Bakhtin and cultural studies

COURSEWORK UNITS

CRT6000

CRITICAL THEORY: A SURVEY

Andrew Milner

12 points * 2 hours per week

First semester

This unit aims to establish the theoretical and methodological foundations for the analysis of literature and culture. These will be examined from a range of competing theoretical perspectives. Discussion will centre on: hermeneutics and reception theory; cultural materialism and the new historicism; semiology and semiotics; ideology critique and the sociology of culture; post-structuralist theories of difference; postcolonial and postmodernist theory. Each of these will be examined for their respective accounts of critical theory and method. Candidates will be required to consider the possible relevance of each of these approaches to their own proposed research.

Assessment

Written: two 4500 word essays (50% each)

Prescribed texts

T Eagleton *Literary Theory: An Introduction* Blackwell, 1996
A Milner and J Browitt *Contemporary Cultural Theory* Allen and Unwin, 2002

Recommended texts

T Adorno and M Horkheimer *Dialectic of Enlightenment* Verso, 1979
J Baudrillard *Simulacra and Simulation* University of Michigan Press, 1994
W Benjamin *Illuminations* Fontana, 1973
H Bloom *The Western Canon* Harcourt Brace, 1994
P Bourdieu *Distinction* Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1984
G Deleuze and F Guattari *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* University of Minnesota Press, 1983
J Derrida *Writing and Difference* University of Chicago Press, 1978
T Eagleton *Criticism and Ideology* Verso, 1976
M. Foucault *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Cornell UP, 1977
S Greenblatt *Learning to Curse* Routledge, 1990

L Irigaray *This Sex Which is Not One* Cornell UP, 1985
F Jameson *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* Verso,
1991
H R Jauss *Toward an Aesthetic of Reception* Harvester, 1982
J Kristeva *Revolution in Poetic Language* Columbia UP, 1984
J-F Lyotard *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge* Manchester
University Press, 1984
E W Said *Culture and Imperialism* Chatto and Windus, 1993
G C Spivak *In Other Worlds* Methuen, 1987
R Williams *Marxism and Literature* Oxford University Press, 1977
S. Zizek *The Sublime Object of Ideology* Verso, 1989

CRT6010

CRITICAL THEORY: AN APPROACH

Andrew Benjamin

12 points * 2 hours per week

First semester

This unit will provide a detailed exploration of the internal logic of a particular approach or a set of related problems in contemporary critical theory. One of the most enduring ethical and political problems that traverse both political and philosophical thinking is violence. This seminar will examine this topic as it appears in a range of texts. The seminar has a twofold project. In the first instance it is to discriminate between terms such as violence, terror and revolution. In the second it is to begin to think through the relationship between violence and law.

Assessment

Written: one 9000-word essay (100%)

Prescribed texts

Giorgio Agamben, *Home Sacer. Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford University Press. 1998.

Hanna Arendt. *On Violence*. Harvest Books..

Walter Benjamin. Critique of Violence. In *Walter Benjamin. Selected Writings. Volume 1*. Harvard University Press.

Jacques Derrida. The Force of Law. *Cardozo Law Review*, 11 (1990).

Jacques Derrida. Before the Law. In Derek Attridge (editor) *Acts of Literature*. Routledge. 1992.

Friedrich Hölderlin. *Poems & Fragments*. (Translated by Michael Hamburger) Anvil Press Poetry. 1994.

CRT6020

CRITICAL THEORY: A THEORIST

Alison Ross

12 points * 2 hours per week

Not offered in 2009

This unit aims to introduce students to some of the major works of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche as well as some of the central texts in recent European philosophy that engage with his thought. The assessment tasks will assist students to locate the place of Nietzsche's thought in their own research projects. Starting with a brief examination of his immediate precursors in German philosophy, our focus will fall on Nietzsche's treatment of the themes of art, history, truth and critique. Texts to be considered on Nietzsche will include selections from Heidegger, Deleuze, Derrida and Irigaray. On completion of this unit students should have a broad understanding of Nietzsche's position within modern European philosophy, a detailed grasp of the central aspects of his thought and a familiarity with his influence on contemporary intellectual movements and figures.

Assessment

One 6000-word essay (70%) and one seminar presentation and written seminar paper of 3000 words (30%).

Recommended texts

F Nietzsche *The Birth of Tragedy, and The Case of Wagner* Vintage Books, 1967

F Nietzsche *The Genealogy of Morals* Vintage Books, 1989

F Nietzsche *Beyond Good and Evil* Cambridge University Press, 2002

F Nietzsche *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Viking Press, 1973

M Heidegger *Nietzsche* Harper & Row, 1979

G Deleuze *Nietzsche and Philosophy* Columbia UP, 1983

J Derrida *Spurs: Nietzsche's Styles* University of Chicago Press, 1979

L Irigaray *Marine Lover: of Friedrich Nietzsche* Columbia UP, 1991

CRT5030

POETICS

“Imagism and the Lyric”

Rose Lucas

12 points * 2 hours per week

Not offered in 2009

How do we read poetry? How does poetry make its meanings? How did the influential school of “Imagism” influence the development of subsequent 20th century poetry? In what unique ways might the genre of poetry express our relationship to the past and to the complex problematic of subjectivity, in particular a gendered subjectivity? In this subject we will read from a variety of different poets in order to look closely at these issues, while also considering some of the wider theoretical questions of modernism/postmodernism, alterity, feminism and psychoanalysis which surround the production, as well as the interpretation, of the poetry.

Assessment

Two 4500 word essays (50% each)

There will be an opportunity to present both these essays as ‘works in progress’ in the seminar, enabling you to draw upon feedback and class discussion in the production of a final draft.

Prescribed texts

A Reading Pack with key poems and readings will be made available for sale. The following texts are also recommended.

Margaret Atwood *Eating Fire: Selected Poems 1965-1995* (Virago, 1998)

Peter Jones (ed.) *The Imagists*

Rose Lucas and Lyn McCredden *Bridgings: Readings in Australian Women Poets* (Oxford, 1996)

Geoffrey Moore (ed) *The Penguin Book of American Verse*

Dorothy Porter *Akhenaten* (UQP)

Anne Sexton *The Complete Poems*

Charles Wright *The World of the Ten Thousand Things*

CRT5070

LACAN AND SUBJECTIVITY

Alison Ross

12 points * 2 hours per week

Not offered in 2009

This unit is designed to provide an introductory reading of the difficult psychoanalytic texts of the French psychoanalyst, Jacques Lacan. We will explore his accounts of: 1) the ego, subjectivity and otherness; 2) the unconscious and desire 'structured like a language'; 3) the phallus and sexual difference. The unit will aim to show Lacan's relevance to a) philosophical accounts of subjectivity; b) theories of literary and visual representation; and c) feminist theory.

Assessment

One 3000 word seminar paper (30%) and one 6000 word essay or two 3000 word essays (70%)

Prescribed texts

V Descombes *Modern French Philosophy* Cambridge UP, 1980

J Gallop *Reading Lacan* Cornell UP, 1985

E Grosz *Jacques Lacan: A Feminist Introduction* Allen and Unwin, 1990

L Irigaray *Speculum of the Other Woman* Cornell UP, 1985

J Lacan *Écrits: A selection* Norton, 1977

J Lacan *Feminine Sexuality* Macmillan, 1982

J Lacan *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis* Tavistock, 1977

J Lacan *Seminar I, II and IV*

J Lacan, *The Language of the Self* ed. A Wilden, Johns Hopkins, 1968

J Muller and W Richardson *Lacan and Language* International Universities Press, 1982

E Roudinesco *Jacques Lacan and Co* Chicago UP, 1990

S Zizek *The Sublime Object of Ideology* Verso, 1989

CRT5100

DELEUZE AND FOUCAULT

Alison Ross

12 points * 2 hours per week

First semester

This unit aims to introduce students to a careful reading of selected texts of two recent French philosophers - Michel Foucault and Gilles Deleuze - who have singly and jointly theorised the nexus between desire and power. The unit is divided into three parts. (1) The common cultural and theoretical background of French philosophy in the twentieth century (through vitalism, structuralism, phenomenology, existentialism, psychoanalysis and Marxism) will be briefly surveyed to contextualise the writings of Foucault and Deleuze. (2) The last writings of Foucault, those he describes as 'genealogy', his writings on prisons and disciplinary power, and his writings on the history of sexuality will be critically explored. (3) Deleuze's 'rhizomatic writings', concentrating on Nietzsche, Sacher von Masoch and *A Thousand Plateaus*, will be examined.

Assessment

One 9000 word essay (100%) or two 4500 word essays (50% each)

Recommended texts

- V Descombes *Modern French Philosophy* Cambridge UP, 1980
- M Foucault *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* Allen Lane, 1977
- M Foucault *The History of Sexuality* Random House, 1978
- M Foucault *The Use of Pleasure* Pantheon, 1985
- M Foucault *The Case of the Self* Pantheon, 1986
- C Gordon (ed.) *Michel Foucault: Power/Knowledge, Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977* Harvester, 1980
- G Deleuze *Nietzsche and Philosophy* Athlone, 1983
- G Deleuze *Masochism, Coldness and Cruelty* Zone, 1989
- G Deleuze and F. Guattari *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* University of Minnesota Press, 1987

CRT5200

SEMIOTICS AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM

Millicent Vladiv-Glover

12 points * 2 hours per week

Second semester

The unit will try to show students how to turn literary structuralist theory into a workable tool of critical analysis. Structuralism and semiotics as critical systems will be traced back to their historical origins, the Russian Formalist school, C S Peirce and Ferdinand de Saussure. The critique and heritage of structuralism in post-structuralism and deconstruction will be examined, with special emphasis on the work of Julia Kristeva.

Assessment

Two 4500 word essays (50% each)

Prescribed texts

- M Bakhtin *The Dialogical Imagination* University of Texas Press, 1990
R Barthes *Image, Music, Text* Fontana, 1984
J Culler *Theory and Criticism after Structuralism* Routledge, 1983
U Eco *The Role of the Reader* Indiana UP, 1984
P Julien *Jacques Lacan's Return to Freud* 1994
J Kristeva *Desire in Language* Columbia UP, 1980
J Kristeva *Language: the Unknown* Columbia UP, 1989
J Kristeva *Revolution in Poetic Language* Columbia UP, 1984
J Lacan *Écrits: A selection* Norton, 1977
L T Lemon and M J Reis *Russian Formalist Criticism: Four Essays* Nebraska UP, 1965
I Lotman *The Structure of the Artistic Text* Michigan Slavic Publications, 1977
L Matejka (ed.) *Sound, Sign and Meaning* Michigan Slavic Publications, 1976
F de Saussure *Course in General Linguistics* Philosophical Library, 1959

CRT5225

HERMENEUTICS

12 points * 2 hours per week

Not offered in 2009

This unit studies the main events in the development of hermeneutics from a theory and practice of textual interpretation during the Enlightenment and the 19th century to a modern theory of understanding and knowledge in the work of Schleiermacher, Husserl, Heidegger, Gadamer and Habermas. It also provides a brief introduction to the functionalist view of the arts in Luhmann's related and yet radically different theory of social systems. The unit addresses problems such as the conflict between subjectivity and objectivity, the dialectics of the foreign and the familiar, the recognition of the new, the role of language and the function of tradition in understanding, the universality of hermeneutics as a theory of cognition, and its implications for the social sciences.

Assessment

Two essays (4500 words each) (50% each)

Prescribed texts

K Mueller-Vollmer (ed.) *The Hermeneutics Reader* Blackwell, 1985

Recommended texts

K Baynes et al *After Philosophy, End or Transformation?* MIT Press, 1987

J Bleicher *Contemporary Hermeneutics: Hermeneutics as Philosophy, Method and Critique* Routledge, 1980

N Luhmann *Art as Social System*, 2000

R E Palmer *Hermeneutics* Northwestern UP, Evanston, 1969

Y Stamiris *Main Currents in Twentieth Century Literary Criticism: a Critical Study* Whitson, 1986

B R Wachterhauser (ed.) *Hermeneutics and Modern Philosophy* State University of NY Press, 1986

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details are available from:
The Executive Officer, Ms Gail Ward
phone (61) (3) 9905-2208
email Gail.Ward@arts.monash.edu.au.

WEBSITE

The Centre's website has information about the Centre, staff publications, postgraduate thesis topics, the Centre's seminar programme and other related matters:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cclcs/postgraduate/>

APPLICATION FORMS

MA application forms are available from the Faculty of Arts web page at <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au> or from the Centre.

Scholarship application forms are available on-line at

<http://www.mrgs.monash.edu.au/scholarships/apply/>

The **closing date** for applications, for both candidature and scholarships, is **31 October**.

HECS EXEMPTIONS

As at 2008, the Masters in Critical Theory by 66% research and coursework is exempt from the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) levy for all local students.

MID-YEAR ENTRY

The MA in Critical Theory by 66% research and coursework is available for mid-year entry.