

2026
Simi Malhotra
PhD 2nd Semester Course: After Theory
4 credits

Week 1 and Week 2

Lectures on “From Theory to Post Theory”

Week 3: Reading Eagleton on After Theory

After Theory: A Reconfiguration

Terry Eagleton, ‘The Politics of Amnesia’ and ‘The Rise and Fall of Theory’, Chapters 1 & 2 in *After Theory*, New York: Basic Books, 2003, pp. 1-40. Available at: https://rhinehartibenglish.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/1/0/22108252/terry-eagleton_after_theory.pdf

Week 4 and Week 5: Problematizing Ideology Critique: Reading Latour and Felski & Anker

Limits of Critique

Bruno Latour, ‘Why Has Critique Run out of Steam? From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern.’ *Critical Inquiry*, 30(2), Winter 2004, pp. 225-248. Available at: <http://www.bruno-latour.fr/sites/default/files/89-CRITICAL-INQUIRY-GB.pdf>

Elizabeth S. Anker and Rita Felski, ‘Introduction’ to *Critique and Postcritique*, Durham & London: Duke University Press, 2017, pp. 1-28. Available at: [https://indico.uni-muenster.de/event/2355/attachments/1361/2603/Rita%20Felksi Critique%20and%20Postcritique Introduction.pdf](https://indico.uni-muenster.de/event/2355/attachments/1361/2603/Rita%20Felksi%20Critique%20and%20Postcritique%20Introduction.pdf)

Week 6 and Week 7: Beyond Ideology Critique, Exploring Alternative Readings: Reparative Reading and Surface Reading: Reading Sedgwick and Best & Marcus

Alternative Readings

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, ‘Paranoid Reading and Reparative Reading, or, You’re So Paranoid, You Probably Think This Essay Is About You’, Chapter 4 in *Touching Feeling: Affect, Pedagogy, Performativity*, Durham & London: Duke University Press, 2003, pp. 123-151. Available at: <https://www.ias.edu/sites/default/files/sss/pdfs/Critique/sedgwick-paranoid-reading.pdf>

Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus, 'Surface Reading: An Introduction.' *Representations* 108, no. 1, Fall 2009, pp. 1-21. Available at: <https://www.ias.edu/sites/default/files/sss/pdfs/Critique/best-and-marcus-surface-reading.pdf>

Week 8 and Week 9: Exploring the Role of Affect, Emotions and Feelings in Framing our Dealings with Literature and Culture: Reading Berlant, Ahmed and Ngai

Affect, Emotions and Feelings

Lauren Berlant and Jordan Greenwald, 'Affect in the End Times: A Conversation with Lauren Berlant', *Qui Parle*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (Spring/Summer 2012), pp. 71-89. Available at: <https://sci-hub.st/10.5250/quiparle.20.2.0071>

Sara Ahmed, *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (2004), 2014. [read the Introduction, Conclusion, and Afterword]. Available at: <https://pratiquesdhospitalite.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/245435211-sara-ahmed-the-cultural-politics-of-emotion.pdf>

Sianne Ngai, 'Introduction', *Ugly Feelings*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005, pp. 1-37. Available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/574dd51d62cd942085f12091/t/5ae0f0fb575d1f485fff58ae/1524691195747/sianne-ngai-ugly-feelings.pdf>

Week 10 and Week 11: Exploring New Orientations in Literary and Cultural Studies, such as New Materialism, Challenges to Human Exceptionalism and Planetary Inhabitation: Reading Bennet, Derrida and Chakrabarty

New Materialism, Other than Human, and Planetaryity

Jane Bennett, 'Preface', *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2010, pp. vii-xix. Available at: <https://www.paradigmtrilogy.com/assets/documents/issue-02/jane-banette--vibrant-matter.pdf>

Jacques Derrida, 'The Animal That Therefore I Am (More to Follow)', in *The Animal That Therefore I Am (L'animal que donc je suis*, Paris: Éditions Galilée, 2006), ed. Marie-Luise Mallet; trans. David Wills, New York: Fordham University Press, 2008, pp. 1-51. Available at: <https://grattoncourses.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/the-animal-that-therefore-i-am-jacques-derrida-ed-marie-louis-mallet-tr-david-wills.pdf>

Dipesh Chakrabarty, 'The Climate of History: Four Theses', *Critical Inquiry*, No. 35, Winter 2009, pp. 197-222. Available at: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduates/modules/literaturetheoryandtime/chakrabarty.pdf>

Week 12 and Week 13: Exploring New Methods in Literary and Cultural Studies, Beyond Interpretation, Examining Data and the Digital: Reading Hayles and Manovich

Digital, Data, and After Interpretation

N. Katherine Hayles, 'How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis' *How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis*, University of Chicago Press, 2012, pp. 1-18. Available at:

<https://dms484.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/hayles-how-we-think.pdf>

Lev Manovich, 'Introduction', *Cultural Analytics*, Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2020, pp. 1-21. Available at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NuSQcggZkj4sToU3EfeFmq1jPC36hU58/view>

Week 14 and Week 15: Exploring the Posthuman and Posthumanities to come: Reading Haraway, Ferrando and Braidotti

The Posthuman

Donna J. Haraway, 'Tentacular Thinking: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene', (Chapter 2, in *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2016.) Extract in *e-flux*, Journal #75, September 2016, Available at

<https://www.e-flux.com/journal/75/67125/tentacular-thinking-anthropocene-capitalocene-chthulucene/>

Francesca Ferrando, 'Posthumanism, Transhumanism, Antihumanism, Metahumanism, and New Materialisms: Differences and Relations', *Existenz*, Volume 8, No 2, Fall 2013, pp. 26-32. Available at: <https://www.existenz.us/volumes/Vol.8-2Ferrando.pdf>

Rosi Braidotti, 'Posthuman Humanities: Life beyond Theory', Chapter 4 in *The Posthuman*, Cambridge & Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2013. pp. 143-85. Available at:

https://ageingcompanions.constantvzw.org/books/The_Posthuman_-_Rosi_Braidotti.pdf

Assessment:

40 percent: 2 Class Presentations

60 percent: End Semester Examination

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