English 614  
Introduction to Theory: Theories of Liminality  
Spring 2011  

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2 pm  
Thursdays 12-1 pm  

Course Description:  
In this course we will analyze theories of liminality in order to generate new methodologies for reading literary texts. Ranging from the “borderlands” theories of Gloria Anzaldúa and Chela Sandoval, to the de-territorial thinking of Deleuze and Guattari, we will study a number of theorists who engage questions of power and liminality. In particular, we will place in dialog theories that valorize the space of liminality as a potentially liberatory framework for resistance to power.

Required Texts  
Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La frontera (Bookstore)  
Charles Mills, The Racial Contract (Bookstore)  
Chela Sandoval, Methodology of the Oppressed (Bookstore)  
All other readings available on Blackboard

Requirements  
1. Paper: There is one seminar paper required in this course. It will be a 15-20 page research paper due at the end of the term.

2. Presentation: One presentation on which you will base and lead the day’s discussion.

3. A weekly one- to two-page response paper due at the beginning of each class. Each response paper should briefly summarize the author’s argument and identify at least one generative contribution for the piece. Please note that you should not use this paper as an opportunity to criticize authors or their positions. Instead, use it to demonstrate how you understand the argument, perhaps placing the piece in relation to other work that we do in the seminar.

Timeline  
This syllabus is primarily a reading guide. As such, it may be subject to revision.

Week 1  
Thursday 3/31  
Read by This Date:  
Introduction: Gramsci from Selections from Prison Notebooks, Jameson “Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism”

Week 2  
Thursday 4/7  
Baudrillard from Simulacrum and Simulation, Althusser from Lenin and Philosophy

Week 3  
Thursday 4/14  
Foucault from Discipline and Punish and from The History of Sexuality

Week 4  
Thursday 4/21  
Spivak “Can the Subaltern Speak,” Fanon from Wretched of the Earth
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Thursday 4/28</th>
<th>Deleuze and Guattari from <em>A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Thursday 5/5</td>
<td>Anzaldúa, <em>Borderlands/La frontera</em></td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Thursday 5/12</td>
<td>Quijano, “Coloniality of Power: Eurocentrism and Latin America,” Mignolo from <em>Local Histories, Global Designs</em></td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Thursday 5/19</td>
<td>Sandoval <em>Methodology of the Oppressed</em></td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Thursday 5/26</td>
<td>Nestor García-Canclini from <em>Hybrid Cultures</em></td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Thursday 6/2</td>
<td>Charles Mills, <em>The Racial Contract</em></td>
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