MSt Core Course: Key Questions in Critical Thought

There will be two seminar groups, run by Prof Hiddleston and Dr Murnane, and Dr Kemp and Dr McLaughlin. Seminars take place weeks 1-5 in Hilary Term. In week 6, there will be individual 15-minute meetings with tutors to discuss plans for the essay. Before the meeting, you should prepare a 250-word statement outlining your essay topic. Essays should be 5000-7000 words and should be submitted by Thursday of Week 10, Hilary Term.

1. Literature, Politics, and Education

Core Reading:


Further Reading:

Jean-Paul Sartre, What is Literature? (London: Routledge, 2001)


2. Gender and Sexuality

Core Reading:


Further Reading:

Judith Butler, Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (London: Routledge, 2006)


Shoshana Felman, What does a woman want? Reading and Sexual Difference (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993)

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, esp. Vol 1, ‘We “Other Victorians”’ (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1978)

Elizabeth Grosz, Volatile Bodies: Towards a Corporeal Feminism (John Wiley and Sons, 1994)


Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), especially ‘Under Western Eyes’ and ‘Under Western Eyes Revisited’

bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics (London: Routledge, 2015)
3. Postcolonialism and Globalisation

Core Reading:


Further Reading:


Jane Hiddleston, *Understanding Postcolonialism* (Stocksfield: Acumen, 2009)


Amitava Kumar (ed.), *World Bank Literature* (Minneapolis, Minn.: U of Minnesota Press, 1996)

4. **Ecology and New Materialism**

**Core Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


5. Posthumanism

Core Reading:


Further Reading:


Robin Hanson, *The Age of Em: Work, Love and Life when Robots rule the Earth* (Oxford: OUP, 2016)


Ruth Leys, ‘The Turn to Affect: A Critique’, *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 37, no. 3 (Spring 2011), pp. 434-72