

CRITICAL THEORY CERTIFICATE

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/>).

Certificate

Total Units Required: 5

Certificate Requirements:

- Complete **five courses** chosen from the list of approved courses (<https://criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/graduate/courses/>), which is updated annually before the beginning of the academic year.
- Courses for the certificate must be comprised of five letter-graded (A, B, C) courses authorized for graduate credit. Courses counted for the certificate must have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA.
- No more than two courses can be counted towards the certificate from the student's degree program.

Course Requirements (5 courses total):

All courses, past and current, that may count toward the Critical Theory Certificate can be found on the list of approved courses (<https://criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/graduate/courses/>).

Foundational Critical Theory seminars, chosen from these generally defined fields (at least 2 courses):

- **Critical Theory and Literary Studies:** Poststructuralism, cultural studies, and postcolonial theory in literary analysis and theory; the influence of psychoanalysis, Marxism, structuralism, semiotics, and post-structuralist thought on contemporary textual analysis; cultural critique and context-centered methodologies.
- **Critical Theory and Philosophy:** Themes may include the origins of critical theory in Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche; the contemporary re-emergence of critical theory in the work of the Frankfurt School; and/or the poststructuralist thinkers such as Derrida and Nancy.
- **Critical Theory and the Study of Politics:** The concepts of progress and power in politics and in the study of politics; the sources of modern political critique in the Frankfurt School and phenomenology; the critique of positivism in the social sciences; the critique of sovereignty, identity, and race; empire and post-colonial politics.
- **Critical Theory in the Global South:** Includes postcolonial, decolonial, trans-national and intersectional approaches to critical theory. Topics may include plural epistemologies, forms of power, histories, aesthetics, and forms of critique; issues of translatability and untranslatability of core concepts; the study of violence, social justice, trauma and memory informed by critical theory in its trans-national dimensions; projects aiming to diversify critical theory's canon; and/or the study of the significance of critical theory in the global south and vice versa.

Remaining Courses (3):

- Chosen from the list of approved courses (<https://criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/graduate/courses/>).

Students may request a course to count toward the certificate that is not on the list of approved courses by contacting criticaltheory@northwestern.edu.