

**LL7001 PRESENTING THEORY AND METHODOLOGY**  
**Semester 1, 2025-2026**

**Time and Date:** Fridays, 2.00-6.00 pm [specific dates in **Schedule** below]

**Credit Weighting:** 5 credits

**Module Co-ordinator:** Prof Silvia Ross, Department of Italian, SLLC

**Teaching Methods:** 6 x 4 Hr(s) Seminars

**Lecturer(s):** Prof Silvia Ross; Prof Oliver Davis; Staff SLLC

**Venue:** Room 1.24, O'Rahilly Building

**Module Objectives:** to enable doctoral students of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and in other relevant subject areas to gain familiarity with major critical theories and methodologies and to give a seminar presentation on a theory (or theorist) related to their research.

**Module Content:** the module will run as a graduate seminar in workshop format, in which staff and doctoral students present critical theories (or theorists) to the group, situating them within the context of their own research.

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Identify key critical theories and methodologies for research in languages, literatures, and/or cultures
2. Articulate the theoretical and methodological framework they employ in their own research project
3. Communicate their theoretical framework effectively to other researchers

**Assessment:** Continuous Assessment (Pass/Fail)

Presentation - Seminar Presentation (Pass/Fail)

Assignment - Written reflection on chosen theory/methodology (Pass/Fail)

**Compulsory Elements:** All students will 1. Give a 20-minute (power-point) presentation on their chosen theory/methodology and 2. Submit a written report (approx. 1,000 words) based on their oral presentation.

**Penalties (for late submission of Course/Project work etc.):** Where work is submitted up to and including 7 days late, 5% of the total marks available shall be deducted from the mark achieved. Where work is submitted up to and including 14 days late, 10% of the total marks available shall be deducted from the mark achieved. Work submitted 15 days late or more shall be assigned a mark of zero.

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**Module Description:** this course is designed to enable doctoral students (from first-year to end-stage) to deepen their knowledge of (critical) theory and methodologies employed in the study of texts and other cultural artefacts at postgraduate level. Conducted in seminar format, the module will ensure exposure to a range of key critical paradigms, which will serve students in identifying the ideologies and approaches underlying interpretations and analyses of cultural and linguistic production. In addition, it will foster advanced communication skills, both spoken and written, which will help postgraduates articulate their own research findings to an academic audience. The module is designed to encourage peer-learning through reflection on one's own methodological approach and that of fellow researchers.

**Format:**

The first two workshops will serve as an introduction to key questions addressed in the module. **Workshop 1** will involve each student presenting their research project and theoretical/methodological approach (5 minutes each). **Workshop 2** will be based on specific reading(s) assigned by the Lecturers. **Workshops 3-6** will consist of 3-4 presentations by each of the research students, followed by discussion with the group.

\*Please note: in keeping with the principle of peer-learning, co-creation of knowledge, and the graduate seminar format, the expectation is that all students will commit to attending each other's presentations and to engaging in group discussion.

**Readings:**

The following are recommended readings and will be available via the Canvas Reading List:

Hans Bertens, *Literary Theory: The Basics* (Routledge, 4<sup>th</sup> edn 2024).

Lois Tyson, *Critical Theory Today. A User-Friendly Guide* (Routledge, 4<sup>th</sup> edn 2023).

Michael Ryan, *Literary Theory: A Practical Introduction* (Wiley-Blackwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn 2017).

Anthony Elliot, *Contemporary Social Theory. An Introduction* (Routledge, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn 2022).

Further readings will be determined by the group of research students in the module and will be provided online via Canvas. ***Details to follow.***

**Presentations:**

Students will give 20-minute presentations, followed by 10 minutes of discussion with the class. Lecturers will arrange the schedule of presentations. The lecturers will provide presentation guidelines in advance.

Students will select a theory or methodological approach on which they will present. They will also recommend a short **reading** (of 10-20 pages) in advance of the date, which will accompany their presentation. The presentation will include a reflection on how this theoretical approach or methodology is applied to the research student's thesis topic and how it aids their interpretation.

Students will need to have determined the topic of their presentation and selected the accompanying short reading by **Friday, 17 October**, in order for us all to have a chance to access the readings well in advance.

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**\*Please note that the schedule below may be subject to modification\***

**Schedule**

<b>Workshop 1</b> <b>Friday, 10 October</b>	<b>Introduction</b> to the module: <b>Pre-work:</b> each participant will give a brief presentation on their research topic and theoretical/methodological approach that they will employ (max 5 minutes each, to be prepared in advance). <b>Discussion:</b> What do we mean by 'theory'? what do we mean by 'methodology'?	Oliver Davis, Silvia Ross, Students
<b>Workshop 2</b> <b>Friday, 17 October</b>	<b>Reading:</b> on reading cultural objects/texts <b>Discussion.</b>	Oliver Davis, Silvia Ross
<b>***HIATUS***</b>	<b>***HIATUS***</b>	<b>***HIATUS***</b>
<b>Workshop 3</b> <b>Friday, 7 November</b>	Research Student Presentations	Students
<b>Workshop 4</b> <b>Friday, 14 November</b>	Research Student Presentations	Students
<b>Workshop 5</b> <b>Friday, 21 November</b>	Research Student Presentations	Students
<b>Workshop 6</b> <b>Friday, 28 November</b>	Research Student Presentations <b>Conclusion</b> of module	Students Oliver Davis, Silvia Ross