Prerequisite: Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing.

Description: This class surveys problems in interpretative theory, paying special attention to issues of representation, authority and reception. In other words, we'll consider the problem of determining where authority to determine a text's meaning located: in the author, the text, the culture, or the individual reader/viewer? How can we understand the role of the reader/viewer in the act of making and making sense of cultural production? Readings will examine critical approaches to literature, film, television and other media.

Required course text: Julie Rifkin and Michael Ryan Literary Theory: An Anthology, second edition (Blackwell Publishing)

Requirements & Grading: Grades will be based on participation in class and online discussions, quizzes, and two 6-8-page papers.