Graduate Program in Culture and Theory

3331 Humanities Gateway; (949) 824-8716
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/cultureandtheory/
James Kyung-Jin Lee, Director

The Ph.D. program in Culture and Theory provides a strong theoretical and critical approach to race, gender, and sexuality studies. It is the Ph.D. graduate program that is constituted of the interdisciplinary units in African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano/Latino Studies, and Women’s Studies, and works integrally with the Critical Theory Emphasis. Interdisciplinary in nature and buttressed by the established strengths in critical theory at UCI, the program uses a problem-oriented approach to issues of race, gender, and sexuality in diasporic, transnational, and postcolonial contexts, as they are engaged broadly in the humanities, social sciences, and arts.

The Ph.D. program in Culture and Theory is designed to take full advantage of the combined expertise of the nationally and internationally prominent faculty at UCI whose work exemplifies the best in contemporary, critical, interdisciplinary studies in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts.

Admission

The Ph.D. program in Culture and Theory accepts applications for the 2013–14 academic year. For more information about admissions, visit http://www.humanities.uci.edu/cultureandtheory/program/index.php or contact the Program Administrator at cultureandtheory@uci.edu, or James Kyung-Jin Lee, Program Director, at jkl@uci.edu. The deadline for submitting applications is December 15, 2013.

Applicants must have earned a bachelor’s, master’s, or equivalent degree in any discipline in the humanities, arts, or social sciences.

Applicants submit official transcripts, statement of purpose, personal history (U.S. citizens and permanent residents only), three letters of recommendation, aptitude scores from the Graduate Record Examination, and a sample of written work. In addition, an interview may be required. Incoming students are admitted for fall quarter only.

To be admitted formally into the doctoral program, students must satisfactorily pass an evaluation at the end of their first year of study; this includes students who entered with an M.A. from another institution.

NOTE: Ph.D. students will receive the M.A. degree after the satisfactory completion of specified requirements, as a step toward the Ph.D. Those students who complete the M.A., but whose committees assess their work as not meeting the standard for the Ph.D., will receive a terminal M.A. degree. Students who enter the program with an M.A. from another institution may receive full or partial credit for the M.A., depending on the assessment of the Executive Committee at the time the student is admitted or on the assessment of the student’s faculty advisor and committee during the student’s first year. Students who receive full credit for the M.A. will be exempt from writing the master’s paper. The procedure for formally requesting course credit is detailed in the Program Handbook.

Requirements

1. CLT&THY 200A, CLT&THY 200B, CLT&THY 200C. Basic to the curriculum, this three-quarter core sequence provides a solid foundation in critical and cultural theories, their philosophical genealogies and institutional histories, and interdisciplinary methodologies. The core sequence also provides the space for an intellectual coherence and cohort building for Culture and Theory graduate students who will be taking most of their other courses in supporting departments and programs.

2. Seven additional theoretical courses drawn from sets of offerings in the core supporting interdisciplinary units, the Critical Theory Emphasis, and other course offerings by core and affiliated faculty, which may include HUMAN 260A-HUMAN 260B-HUMAN 260C and HUMAN 270. One of these courses must be focused on research methods. Working closely with a faculty advisor and committee, students set up a coherent course of study related to one or more of the areas explored in the core courses. Typically the seven courses will revolve around a set of theoretical problems, e.g., feminist theory and practice, critical race studies, sexualities, postcolonialism, transnational circuits, globalization, theorizing the political, philosophical debates on ethics, the intersections of visuality and textuality, to name a few.

The theoretical problem courses are centered on the philosophical and theoretical approaches that form the basis of much work in critical, cultural, and social theory regarding race, gender, and sexuality studies.

3. Six courses on a focused area of study. This might include concentrations within and across a department, within the Critical Theory emphasis, or in one of the core supporting interdisciplinary units. In the latter case, students will take the dedicated core courses of a Graduate Emphasis. Students could also choose to work on a coherent area of focused study devised with their advisor. The courses in a focused area of study address a particular field in which various forms of critical theory have been applied, as well as a focus on groups, nations, and regions: examples include globalization, racism and the welfare state, diasporas of particular kinds, human rights, anti-colonial resistance movements in particular regions, Muslim women and questions of the veil, the Harlem Renaissance, Asian American feminism, modernity and race.

4. CLT&THY 280. In this independent study course taken during their second year, students expand and develop a seminar paper into the master’s paper, with the guidance of their faculty advisor.

5. Students must TA in a Humanities or Social Sciences department or program for a minimum of three quarters. They are also required to take the teaching seminar and workshops associated with the course in which they teach.

6. CLT&THY 290. Students take this two-unit research and prospectus seminar in their third and fourth years to enable systematic progress toward their dissertation.

7. Additionally, students are expected to participate regularly in the Culture and Theory Colloquium, a series of events comprised of lectures, conferences, and performances sponsored by the program and allied units, particularly in the social sciences and the arts. Each year, the Colloquium will also include academic workshops (e.g., faculty and student works-in-progress, as well as on grant writing and on framing the dissertation project) and professionalization workshops (e.g., preparation for conferences and, later, for the job market). In addition to exposure to diverse ideas and development of practical techniques, participation in the Colloquium is intended
to strengthen relations among students, and between students and faculty who are otherwise stretched across several units and schools.

**Master’s Paper and M.A. Degree:** During their second year, students work with their faculty advisor to expand and develop a seminar paper into a master’s paper. A master’s paper expands a seminar paper to a version that is of near-publishable quality. Upon completion of the paper, the faculty advisor and two other core faculty members will participate in an assessment of student’s work to date.

Ph.D. students will receive the M.A. degree after the satisfactory completion of the three core courses, seven theoretical problem courses, six courses on a focused area of study, and the master’s paper. Those students who complete the M.A. requirements, but whose committees assess their work as not meeting the standards for the Ph.D., will receive a terminal M.A. degree.

**Qualifying Examination:** Students work with a committee comprised of four faculty members, including one outside member, to draw up reading lists and head notes on four topics, as well as a dissertation prospectus. Three of these topics should relate to the major areas of study outlined in the 200A, B, C core course sequence, and one should relate to the student’s area of disciplinary or focused study. The examination itself will be comprised of a written and oral exam. A student shall advance to candidacy upon successful passing of the Qualifying Exam and fulfillment of the language requirement, normally by the end of the third year. For a more detailed explanation of the Qualifying Exam, the timeline for its preparation, and composition of its committee, consult the Program Handbook.

**Language Requirement:** By the time they qualify for candidacy, students must demonstrate through course work or examination the ability to do research in one ancient or modern language (other than English).

**Dissertation:** The dissertation topic should be drawn from a focused area of study, chosen in consultation with the dissertation advisor and other committee members. Students will draw up their dissertation committee, which must consist of at least three members, at least two of whom must be drawn from the core faculty in the program whose interests match the topic chosen for the thesis. Dissertations must be approved by the student’s dissertation committee and submitted to the executive committee.

**Time to Degree:** The normative time for advancement to candidacy is four years. The normative time for completion of the Ph.D. is seven years, and the maximum time permitted is eight years.

**Core Faculty**

Jonathan Alexander, Ph.D. Louisiana State University, *Campus Writing Director and Professor of English and Education* (writing studies, sexuality studies, queer theory, new media studies)

Christine Bacareza Balance, Ph.D. New York University, *Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies* (performance studies, critical race and ethnic studies, Filipino American studies, queer theory, and popular culture)

Tom Boellstorff, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Professor of Anthropology* (virtual worlds, sexuality, postcoloniality, HIV/AIDS, mass media and popular culture, language and culture, Indonesia, Southeast Asia)

Nahum D. Chandler, Ph.D. University of Chicago, *Associate Professor of African American Studies* (modern intellectual history, history of the human sciences)

Bridget R. Cooks, Ph.D. University of Rochester, *Director of the Graduate Program in Visual Studies and Associate Professor of African American Studies and Art History* (African American art and culture, Black visual culture, museum criticism, film, feminist theory and postcolonial theory)

Sohail Daulatzai, Ph.D. University of Southern California, *Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies* (Black racialism and internationalism, Muslim studies, critical race studies, U.S. imperial culture, and cultural history)

Dorothy Fujita-Rony, Ph.D. Yale University, *Associate Professor of Asian American Studies* (U.S. history, Asian American studies)

David Theo Goldberg, Ph.D. City University of New York Graduate School and Center, *Director of the UC Humanities Research Institute and Professor of Comparative Literature, Anthropology, and of Criminology, Law and Society* (race, racism and the law, political and critical theory, South Africa, digital humanities/learning and technology, higher education)

Sora Han, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, *Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law and Society* (law and popular culture, critical race theory, philosophies of punishment, feminism and psychoanalysis)

Douglas M. Haynes, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity and Associate Professor of History* (social and cultural history of modern Britain, social history of modern medicine)

Winston A. James, Ph.D. London School of Economics and Political Science, *Professor of History* (Caribbean, African American, and African diaspora)

Victoria E. Johnson, Ph.D. University of Southern California, *Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies* (critical/cultural history of U.S. TV and film, critical race theory, sound and music in film/TV, branding and identity)

Laure H. Y. Kang, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, *Associate Professor of Women's Studies, Comparative Literature, and English* (feminist epistemologies and theories, cultural studies, ethnic studies)

Arifere R. Keizer, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Associate Professor of English* (African American and Caribbean literature, critical race and ethnic studies, feminist and psychoanalytic theory, cultural studies)

James Kyung-Jin Lee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Director of the Graduate Program in Culture and Theory, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, and Associate Professor of English* (Asian American literature and culture, contemporary U.S. literature, race and ethnic studies, urban studies, religious studies)

Mark A. LeVine, Ph.D. New York University, *Professor of History* (modern Middle Eastern history, Islamic studies, histories of empire and globalization)

Lilith Mahmud, Ph.D. Harvard University, *Assistant Professor of Women's Studies* (elites; race and nationalism; cultural capital; secrecy and conspiracy; feminist ethnography; and critical studies of Europe)
Steven Mailloux, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Professor Emeritus of English (rhetoric, critical theory, American literature, law and literature)

Glen Mimura, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, Associate Dean of Graduate Study and Research and Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies (minority, diasporic, and third cinemas; media, nationalism, and globalization; race, sexuality and popular culture)

Yong Soon Min, M.F.A. University of California, Berkeley, Professor of Art (intermedia, migration, cultural studies)

Michael J. Montoya, Ph.D. Stanford University, UCI Chancellor's Fellow and Associate Professor of Anthropology, Chicano/Latino Studies, and Public Health (social inequality and health; race and ethnicity; social and cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine; the participation of ethnic populations in biomedical research; the U.S./Mexican border, critical bioethics)

Kevin Olson, Ph.D. Northwestern University, Associate Professor of Political Science (contemporary European political theory, cultural politics, politics of diversity, popular sovereignty, citizenship, nineteenth- and twentieth-century political theory)

Rachel O'Toole, Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Associate Professor of History (Colonial Latin America, African Diaspora, colonialisms, race, racism, indigenous histories, Atlantic worlds)

Rajagopalan Radhakrishnan, Ph.D. State University of New York, Binghamton, UCI Chancellor's Professor of English and Comparative Literature (critical theory, postcoloniality, nationalisms and diasporas, poststructuralism, postmodernism, democracy and minority discourse, cultural studies, globalization and transnationalism)

Vicki L. Ruiz, Ph.D. Stanford University, Professor of History and Chicano/ Latino Studies (Chicana/Latina history, U.S. labor, immigration, and gender)

Connie Samaras, M.F.A. Eastern Michigan University, Professor of Art (photography, contemporary visual art, gender studies, culture and technology)

Jeanne Schepet, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies (feminist performance studies and visual culture, cultural studies, theories of race, gender and sexuality, trans-Atlantic modernism)

Gabriele Schwab, Ph.D. University of Konstanz, UCI Chancellor's Professor of Comparative Literature and English (modern literature, critical theory, psychoanalysis, comparative literature)

Jared Sexton, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Program Director and Associate Professor of African American Studies and Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies (race and sexuality, policing and imprisonment, contemporary U.S. cinema and political culture, multiracial coalition, critical theory)

Katherine Tate, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Professor of Political Science (American politics, African American politics, and public opinion)

Jennifer Terry, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Comparative Literature (cultural studies, social theory; science and technology studies, formations of gender and sexuality; critical approaches to modernity; American studies in transnational perspective, processes of militarization)

Keith L. Topper, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science (political theory, critical theory, poststructuralism, theories of power, language and politics, theory and politics of interpretation, politics of culture, philosophy of the social sciences)

Roxanne Varzi, Ph.D. Columbia University, Associate Professor of Anthropology (Islam, visual anthropology, anthropology of war, media, youth culture, religion and public space; Iran)

Linda Trinh Vô, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies (race and ethnic relations, immigrants and refugees, gender relations, and community and urban studies)

Frank B. Wilderson III, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Professor of African American Studies and Drama (film theory, Marxism, dramaturgy, black political theory)

Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, Assistant Professor of African American Studies (South Africa, poor whites, race in foreign policy, diaspora, comparative racial politics, third world feminisms, feminist pedagogy, black political thought)

Mei Zhan, Ph.D. Stanford University, Associate Professor of Anthropology (medical anthropology, cultural and social studies of science, globalization, transnationalism, gender; China and United States)

Affiliated Faculty

Ackbar Abbas, Professor of Comparative Literature and of Film and Media Studies

Luis F. Avilés, Associate Professor of Spanish

Catherine Benamou, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies

Victoria Bernal, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Sharon B. Block, Associate Dean of Humanities Undergraduate Study and Associate Professor of History

Vinayak Chaturvedi, Associate Professor of History

Susan Bibler Coutin, Associate Dean of the Graduate Division and Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and of Anthropology

Julia Elyachar, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Raúl Fernández, Director of the UC-Cuba Academic Initiative and Professor Emeritus of Chicano/Latino Studies and Social Sciences

Gilbert Gonzalez, Professor Emeritus of Chicano/Latino Studies

James D. Herbert, Professor of Art History

Susan Jarratt, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Law

Linda Trinh Vô, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies (race and ethnic relations, immigrants and refugees, gender relations, and community and urban studies)

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Jessica Millward, Assistant Professor of History
Gonzalo Navajas, Professor of Spanish
Jane O. Newman, Professor of Comparative Literature and English
Kristin Peterson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Nasrin Rahimieh, Director of the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture, Professor of Comparative Literature, and Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies and Culture
Belinda Robnett-Olsen, Associate Professor of Sociology
Fatimah Tobing Rony, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies
Annette Schlichter, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature
Ulrike Strasser, Director of European Studies and Associate Professor of History
Heidi Tinsman, Associate Professor of History
Rudolfo D. Torres, Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design

Courses

**CLT&THY 200A. Identity and Difference. 4 Units.**
Introduction to scholarship on social movements, institutions, and theories relating to the rise of identities based on race, gender, ethnicity, class, and sexuality.

**CLT&THY 200B. Power and Resistance. 4 Units.**
Focusing on questions of power and resistance, examines theorists, mostly from the middle twentieth century to the twenty-first century, whose work has led to the study of revolutions and resistance movements and their centrality in cultural theory.

**CLT&THY 200C. Movement and Displacement. 4 Units.**
Focusing on epistemologies of contemporary cultural theory, probes the genealogies of ideas of movement and settlement. Examines ways in which epistemologies of movement and displacement produce texts and contexts of knowledge formation.

**CLT&THY 280. Independent Study. 4 Units.**
Limited to students who have not yet received the M.A. degree.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

**CLT&THY 289. Topics in Culture and Theory. 4 Units.**
Seminars on various topics in Culture and Theory.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

**CLT&THY 290. Research and Prospectus Seminar. 2 Units.**
Bi-weekly seminar required for third- and/or fourth-year students. Students make presentations of dissertation prospectus for discussion. All graduate students welcome to attend and participate. Meant especially for students preparing for formal presentation of prospectus.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

**CLT&THY 298. Directed Reading. 4-12 Units.**
Directed readings on a specific topic agreed upon by students and their instructors. Limited to students who have completed their M.A. degree and are preparing for their qualifying exam.

Prerequisite: Completion of the M.A. degree.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

**CLT&THY 299. Dissertation Research. 4-12 Units.**
Dissertation research in Culture and Theory.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

**CLT&THY 298. Directed Reading. 4-12 Units.**
Directed readings on a specific topic agreed upon by students and their instructors. Limited to students who have completed their M.A. degree and are preparing for their qualifying exam.

Prerequisite: Completion of the M.A. degree.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

**CLT&THY 299. Dissertation Research. 4-12 Units.**
Dissertation research in Culture and Theory.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.