Critical Theory (Graduate Certificate)

Prepare yourself for advanced study in a number of areas, including English, linguistics, philosophy, African American studies, women and gender studies, law, history, politics and sustainability. By completing this certificate, you also become prepared for businesses and industries that require effective explanation and analysis of complex ideas, texts and systems.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Critical Theory (certificate)
The certificate program in critical theory provides students with opportunity for advanced study in critical and contemporary theory. It promotes the skills required for the use and interpretation of concepts from continental philosophy and from the theoretical trends that have followed over the last two centuries. The program offers tools for creating a critical engagement with society and for the production of new cultural texts and ideas. Myriad developments in theory cut across disciplines in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and the technical and physical sciences. Students find a wide variety of existing and new courses to apply toward the certificate.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus, West campus

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours and a portfolio
Required Core (3 credit hours)
ENG 502 Contemporary Critical Theories (3)

Electives (12 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (0 credit hours)
portfolio (0)

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. Specific details about English proficiency requirements are available on the Department of English website.

International students who need an F1 or J1 visa first need to apply to and be accepted into a graduate degree program prior to being considered for the certificate program. International students residing in the USA on other types of visas must adhere to all Graduate College policies and procedures regarding admission be considered for admission to this certificate program.

The graduate certificate in critical theory is available to all ASU graduate students irrespective of their major, as well as to nondegree graduate students and working professionals provided they meet eligibility criteria. Sample majors include English; women and gender studies; art history; and, arts, media and engineering.
Eligible applicants must have taken two courses in critical theory or a related field at the upper-division undergraduate level (such as ENG 401 Topics in Critical Theory) or at the graduate level (such as ENG 502 Contemporary Critical Theories).

After submitting the online application, applicants must email unofficial transcripts, a brief statement of purpose explaining the student's areas of interest in critical theory, and a resume to the graduate program manager in the Department of English, with this subject line: Critical Theory Certificate Application.

Application Deadlines

Fall
Spring

Career Opportunities

Writers and other content professionals are in demand today, not only in traditional print media, but on a myriad digital platforms. The modes of logical argumentation and conceptual analysis found in critical theory are valuable skills useful across the media spectrum, from scholarly writing to popular magazines and websites with social, cultural and political themes. Students of critical theory are also increasingly involved in multimedia work and technologies (such as A.I. and other forms of human-to-media interface) that can be used in cutting edge institutional ventures, both academic and commercial, such as tech start-ups.

Career examples include:

- analyst for cultural tech company
- content provider for social media
- freelance cultural critic (on- and offline)
- grass-roots activist
- instructor in critical theory, cultural studies or media studies
- political strategist or campaign worker
- writer in marketing and advertising

Contact Information

Department of English | RBHL 125
enggrad@asu.edu | 480-965-3194
Admission Deadlines