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### **GER 411. Introduction to Critical Theory**

This course introduces to key concepts and the practice of Critical Theory. Readings include texts by Walter Benjamin, Theodor W. Adorno, and Jacques Derrida.

12 Sep	Introduction
19 Sep	Kant, Preface to <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> and “Answering the Question: What is Enlightenment?”; Marx, “For a Ruthless Criticism”, „A Contribution to the Critique...” ( <i>Marx-Engels-Reader</i> , 12-15, 53-65)
26 Sep	Benjamin, The Task of the Translator, On Language as such and on the Language of Man; Derrida, Tours de Babel.
3 Oct	Benjamin, Critique of Violence; Derrida, Force of Law
10 Oct	Thanksgiving
17 Oct	Benjamin, <i>Theses on History</i> , selection from the <i>Arcade Project</i>
24 Oct	Benjamin, “On Kafka”, Adorno, “Notes on Kafka” ( <i>Prismen</i> ), Scholem, Letter to Benjamin
31 Oct	Adorno, Negative Dialectics, Introduction; Minima Moralia, concluding aphorism
7 Nov	Horkheimer and Adorno, Dialectic of Enlightenment, Preface and “Concept of Enlightenment”
14 Nov	cont., “Odysseus or the Myth and Enlightenment”
21 Nov	cont. “The Culture Industry”
28 Nov	Adorno, “Notes on philosophical thinking” and “Marginalia on Theory and Praxis”
5 Dec	Final Discussion

