Designate Emphasis in Critical Theory Program Requirements  
Revised: February 28, 2017  
Approved by Graduate Council: June 16, 2017

Critical Theory Admission Criteria

Student must fill out the Application for DE Emphasis Form (https://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/sites/default/files/upload/files/current-students/gs323-de-app.pdf), obtain the signature of the student’s Graduate Group Program Advisor and submit it to the Chair of the Critical Theory for approval.

Coursework

The minimum requirements to complete the DE in Critical Theory are four courses. The first three of these are offered by the Critical Theory program itself:

- CRI 200A: Approaches to Critical Theory
- CRI 200B: Problems in Critical Theory
- CRI 200C: History of Critical Theory

The fourth required course, an elective, can be another CRI 200B or, alternatively, an approved course focusing on theoretical issues from a student's home department or from one of the departments affiliated with the DE. For approval of an elective from outside of the Critical Theory Department, the student submits the syllabus, the reading list, and the term paper from that course to the staff contact for the DE, along with a brief statement (150-200 words) saying what its theoretical focus is (the syllabus speaks for itself). The director will review the syllabus and paper to ensure that the syllabus focuses on theoretical issues and that the final paper has an identifiable theoretical focus equivalent to that expected of a CRI 200B course. Students will be allowed one petition (i.e. one syllabus and one paper) per quarter; if the petition is denied you must wait until the next quarter to resubmit.

Qualifying Examination

All four of the required courses for the DE have to be completed before the student’s Qualifying Examination. Students in the program are also expected to incorporate critical theory as a central category of analysis in their qualifying examination lists and dissertation topics; and one member of the qualifying examination committee must be an affiliate of Critical Theory.

The student’s Qualifying Examination Application form must be signed by the Chair of Critical Theory in addition to the chair of the examination committee.

After passing the Qualifying Exam, the “Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy” form also needs to be signed by the Chair of Critical Theory.