

Student Name, UID, Pronouns: _____

Program Completion Date: _____

Theory Certificate Requirements and Worksheet

The certificate is earned by successful completion of an 18-credit curriculum which includes the courses and requirements listed below. All courses must be taken at the University of Maryland and during the time in which the student is pursuing a graduate degree program. All certificate requirements must be completed within five years, starting from the semester in which the student took the first course applied to the certificate.

- (A) **An Introductory Course in Critical Theory (3 credits).** This requirement is typically satisfied by completion of the graduate-level introduction to theory course offered in the student's home department. **Students may, however, instead complete any graduate-level introductory theory course approved by the Coordinator.**
- (B) **Two Core Theory Seminars (6 credits).** Students must take two core seminars in theory, typically PARADIGMS OF THEORY (ENGL 701), which focuses on critical thinkers whose work provides the theoretical paradigms for the contemporary human sciences, and CULTURES OF THEORY (ENGL 702), which explores the socio-historical, cultural, and material contexts of various theoretical traditions and practices. **However, as these seminars are increasingly offered infrequently, other theoretically focused seminars may be substituted to meet the requirement, with the approval of the Coordinator. Substitute courses must involve the student writing a 15-20 page research paper that deals substantially with theory.**
- (C) **Two Topics in Theory Courses (6 credits).** Students must select two additional graduate courses (not necessarily seminars) that focus on critical issues, traditions, or approaches to theory. **All selections must be approved by the Coordinator, who will consult the syllabus, course description, and/or instructor in making a decision.**
- (D) **Colloquium in Critical Theory (1 credit each semester for 3 semesters).** Students must enroll in and attend the Colloquium in Critical Theory (ENGL 798B) for three semesters (1 credit per semester; 3 credits total required). The semesters need not be consecutive. **Students must attend and participate in at least 4 of the 5 colloquium sessions in a semester to receive the needed S (Satisfactory) grade.** Enrollment in the colloquium is also open to any UMD graduate student, not only those pursuing the certificate.
- (E) **Writing Workshop/Presentation to Colloquium.** Students must workshop a piece of their own theoretically inflected writing at a session of the colloquium. **Students will submit their writing and theoretical background reading in advance and will then offer a brief introduction to the work at the colloquium, after which the group will discuss the writing and offer feedback.** The student need not be enrolled in the colloquium during the semester of the presentation.
- (F) **Minimum Grade Point Average.** Students must earn a minimum 3.0 GPA in courses counted toward the certificate.

Five courses in theory, meeting the above specifications (list course #, course title, term, and grade):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

Three semesters of the Colloquium in Critical Theory (ENGL 798) (list term and instructor):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Workshop/Presentation to Colloquium (list date): _____