

Idea for an Interdisciplinary Theory Program Associated with the Spanish Department
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The University of Iowa could offer a **graduate and possibly undergraduate certificate in critical theory**, with say, a chronological sequence starting with the Russian dept offering a course in Formalism, Prague School Structuralism and Semiotics (with a guest lecture from Anthropology on Levi-Strauss and from say Newman on their film theory), then the French Dept. on Tel Quel, Post-Structuralism and Deconstructionism, Psychoanalytic and Feminist Criticism (Barthes, Bataille, Kristeva, Foucault, Lacan, Derrida etc.), and finally the German Dept. offering a course in Frankfurt School bridging more recent Marxist Criticism (Tom Lewis could do guest lectures there, so could Kathleen Newman or Dan Balderston on film and photography/ cultural studies aspects of the school). The Advanced Literary Analysis course in **our dept** could be also be required of Spanish students so they learn the theoretical vocabulary in Spanish and have the opportunity to work with specifically **Hispanic critical debates** (e.g. testimonio theory, the postmodernism debate, Latin American postcolonial and film theory etc.) paired with Hispanic primary texts (e.g. selections from the Quijote and Foucault on authorship as in the course I taught at Reed). The Russian, French and German courses would be taught in English but foreign literature credit could be given to students doing readings and papers in the target language.

I have Jorge Panesi's syllabus from the U of Buenos Aires (which is one of my models for this) and could help get the theory readings in Spanish for those whose native language is Spanish, as it makes no sense to read theory in successive translations. The goal of the certificate would be to give literature PhDs the capacity to teach a theory course in either English or Spanish in a Spanish or interdisciplinary dept., and to give majors and graduate students a better grounding in theory for future scholarship.

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