LANGUAGE & SUBJECTIVITY:

Theories of Formation

(Interdisciplinary Research)

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SPRING 2016 • SLA 515 / COM 514 • MONDAY • 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

The purpose of the course is to examine key texts of the twentieth century that established the fundamental connection between language structures and practices on the one hand, and the formation of selfhood and subjectivity, on the other. In particular, the course will focus on theories that emphasize the role of formal elements in producing meaningful discursive and social effects. Works of Russian formalists and French (post)-structuralists will be discussed in connection with psychoanalytic and anthropological theories of formation.

Requirements:

Class Participation - 30%. Weekly Position Paper (no more than 250 words) - 20%. One oral presentation in class - 20%. Final Paper (3000-3500 words) - 30%

Books on order at Labyrinth:

Week one.  

Introduction

Week Two.  

Systems: Displacements & Substitutions


Week Three.  

The Art of Estrangement


Week Four.  

Metaphor & Metonymy


Week Five.  

Discoursing Subject


Week Six. *Structuralists’ Tales*


Week Seven. *Ordering Things*


Week Eight. *Language: Aesthetics vs. Ideology*


Week Nine.  

**Writing Cultures**

**Sergei Eisenstein.** The Unexpected (pp.18-27); Cinematographic Principle and the Ideogram (pp.28-44); A Dialectical Approach to Film Form (pp.45-63); Methods of Montage (pp.72-83). In: Sergei Eisenstein. *Film Form: Essays in Film Theory*. Trans. by Jay Leyda. New York: A Harvest Book, 1949.


Week Ten.  

**Signifying Practices**


Week Eleven.  

**Structure, Sign, and Play**


Week Twelve.  

**Floating Signifier**


