This course is basic for all graduate students in literature and culture studies in SLC at Purdue University and cross listed with Comparative Literature to learn about the tools and concepts useful for their M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs. Students learn how to search for sources relevant to their readings, their presentations, and their writing projects. They work on how to design and write an acceptable paper and an abstract for a conference talk, how to establish and to design a bibliography and footnotes (Modern Language Association style and Chicago style), and to use citations professionally. We discuss the principles of originality, academic honesty, and fair use in the current context of academia. The course will communicate vital knowledge on how to publish and it will introduce a fine selection of readings in literary theory and approaches to various genres of literary text. It will familiarize you with approaches and research questions and will help you to find and contextualize your own position as you experiment in this course with your own writing or research project. We shall discuss and graduate students’ presentations from a variety of approaches. The spectrum includes, for example Hermeneutics, Reader-Response Theory, Cultural studies, Deconstruction and Poststructuralism, Formalism, Marxism, the Frankfurt School, Metaphor Theory, Psychoanalytic Approaches to Literature Studies, Ekphrasis studies, Theories addressing Gender, Feminist Approaches, Diversity studies, Semiotics, Phenomenology, Cognition, and perhaps even Environmentalism.
**Required Texts:**

1) Gibaldi, Joseph, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research papers*. 8th new edited edition New York: (Modern Language Association of America, 2016) which is about to be newly published in print,

2) Leitch, Vincent, B., ed. *The Norton Anthology of Criticism and Theory*. 3rd edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2016) and

3) Readings as will be posted on Blackboard and to some extent are up to the individual participant’s choice.