This introductory course on problems in contemporary critical theory will begin by focusing on critique of ideology in the Marxist tradition (with particular attention to Sartre, Althusser and Jameson, along with some of their major predecessors, allies and adversaries, including such thinkers as Eisenstein, Barthes, Bataille and Derrida). We will then discuss how the relationships between discursive, institutional and aesthetic practices and their pragmatic effects are rethought in the writings of such theorists as Foucault, Rancière and Deleuze. While the primary focus of the course will be on theoretical texts, these texts will also be considered in dialogue with literary and cinematic works.
Practicum in Scholarly Writing, Publication, & Research

In this course, students revise and expand a paper written in a previous course with an aim towards producing a publishable work of approximately 20-25 pages in length. In the revised article, students develop an original argument relative to a significant problem or research question; demonstrate knowledge of relevant primary and secondary sources and the ability to evaluate them critically; engage with an appropriate theoretical or scholarly methodology; and draw out clearly the significance of their findings. The class meets regularly as a group for the purpose of discussion and feedback on individual work. Students submit written assignments and make short presentations on essential elements of their revision, including the argument, the current state of research on the topic, and their contribution to the field. In addition, they receive and write a reader’s report similar to those used to referee journal submissions. Throughout the course, students will meet individually with the professor to discuss their progress. Work written or revised over the course of the quarter will be shared and discussed in the final class meeting. This course is required for 2nd and 3rd year graduate students in French. It will be taught in English. Enrolled students must submit the seminar paper they wish to revise to the professor no later than December 13, 2019.