While minor programs are not required for graduation, students are encouraged to complete them. They are especially useful for students to indicate a breadth of interest that goes beyond narrow specialization.

The Critical & Cultural Theory Minor is an excellent preparation for graduate school in the humanities and social sciences, and it can enhance the quality of one’s undergraduate experience and one’s life outside the university. The core course, English 3331, Thinking Theoretically, focuses specifically on the skills of critical thinking. The electives work with foundational texts of many disciplines and train students in the ways that theories function to organize and advance knowledge about the world and of how human beings interact with the world. It helps students develop the tools for the thoughtful examination of culture and its various constructions, from social structures to political processes to various kinds of art objects. The minor crosses a wide variety of disciplines, such as African and African-American Studies, Anthropology, Comparative Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History of Art, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

The Cultural and Critical Theory Minor is an interdisciplinary program which requires 15 credits distributed as follows: the 3-credit core course (English 3331), one 3-credit course from each of the three broad categories of the minor, listed below, and an additional 3 hours from any listed category, all at the 3000 level or above, including the optional capstone course, Arts Sci 4531.

Required Core Course:
English 3331: Thinking Theoretically

Students must take at least one course from the three categories below.

Category A: Disciplinary Theory
Comp Std 5970: Foundational Approaches to the Study of Religion
Econ 3048: Ethics and Social Responsibility in Economic Life
Linguistics 4100: Phonetics
Philos 3750: Introduction to Theory of Knowledge
Philos 3600: Introduction to Philosophy of Language
Philos 5750: Advanced Theory of Knowledge

Category B: Theory in Practice
AFAmASt 4921: Intersections: Approaches to Races, Gender, Class and Sexuality
AFAmASt 3440: Theorizing Race
CompStd 4921: Intersections: Approaches to Race, Gender, Class, and Sexuality
Comp Std 4845: Gender, Sexuality, and Science
English 4573.02: Rhetoric and Social Action
Geog 5502: The Neoliberal City
Geog 5601; Foucault, Power, Governance
Philos 3420: Philosophical perspectives on Issues of Gender
Philos 3440: Theorizing Race
Pol Sci 3910: Identity Politics
WGSSt 4845; Gender, Sexuality, and Science
WGSSt 4921: Approaches to Race, Gender, Class and Sexuality
WGSSt 4575: Women’s studies Senior Seminar
WGSSt 5620: Topics in Feminist Studies

Category C: Transdisciplinary Theory
English 4559: Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory
English 4573.01: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
English 4576.01: History of Critical Theory I: Plato to Aesthetics
English 4576.02: History of Critical Theory II: 1900 to Present