

ENGL401 Introduction to Modern Critical Theory

Invention of Modern Childhood



This course is an introduction to critical theories and practices related to modern literary criticism. We will closely read original theoretical texts by selected theorists of Gender Studies, Marxism, Deconstruction, New Historicism, and Post-colonialism.

The course enhances critical awareness, and offers a new and exciting journey in abstract language. The thematic focus of the course is childhood. The construction of idyllic childhood can be dated back to the

romantic idea of the child as a symbol of innocence. Since the 19th century, demand for educational investment, emphasis on motherhood, and the toy industry all drive the mercy and violence surrounding childhood.

- Students will try on the various critical lenses listed above to shed light on poems, short-stories, and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.
- Graduate and undergraduate students are all welcome.



Dr. Wo, MW 1:00-2:50 PM
(Meets Critical Theory Requirement)