Contemporary English Studies rely on a cluster of theoretical families that are implicit and explicit in our discourse, including interpretive, rhetorical and critical work. In fact, theory is so integral, politically and intellectually, that is impossible to do graduate work without some exposure to it. Any selection of texts and authors is necessarily partial.

The inaugural section of ENG 608 is designed to emphasize how literary, rhetorical and composition theories are in dialogue with each other. To that end, we will cover the following groups of theoretical ideas: Semiotics, Structuralism, and Deconstruction; Marxism, Feminism, and Identity (including Race, Gender, and nationality) using The Critical Tradition by David Richter, as well as large sections of Cross-Talk in Comp Theory, 3rd edition, by Villanueva. (There will also be a number of essays supplied in .pdf format.)

ENG 624: British Literature of the Middle Ages
Dr. S. Elizabeth Passmore
epassmore@usi.edu
Thursdays 6:00-8:45pm
Spring 2014

We will explore in depth two popular poetic narratives which frame the medieval period and include within their pages most of the themes and genres popular from the 9th to the 15th centuries: the Anglo-Saxon heroic narrative, Beowulf, and the late 14th century framed tale collection, Confessio Amantis, by John Gower, contemporary of Chaucer. We will examine the literary styles and tropes of the narratives in conjunction with elements of material culture, manuscript texts and images, and archeaological discoveries relevant to each text's composition and original audiences.