ENG 393
Theories of Literacy
Spring 2020

“Literacy does not require or inexorably lead to any particular development, but it is a powerful tool available for organizing, extending, providing resources for, and transforming all of our social endeavors.”
--Charles Bazerman

“To be truly literate, a person must be conversant with a specific body of knowledge known to educated people, or, more precisely, the cultural knowledge of the dominant society.”
--E.D. Hirsch Jr.

“Literacy is a system of oppression that works against entire societies as well as against certain groups within given populations and against individual people.”
--Elspeth Stuckey

“It’s not what’s inside your head, it’s what your head’s inside of.”
--Patrick Hartwell

As the statements above illustrate, theories of literacy are embedded within the values and assumptions of individuals, institutions, and academic specialization. In this course, we will survey and map out key works and movements in literacy theory and research, their influences on academic scholarship and education, the ideological assumptions that inform them, and how we might view these theories in the study of writing, rhetorics, and literacies, and within broader sociocultural landscapes.

Instructor - Peter Goggin
Line # 19825
TTH 12:00-1:15 STAUF A317


REQUIREMENTS: (Detailed descriptions of the following required assignments will be distributed)
• literacy keyword report and presentation
• participation and attendance
• midterm & final exam
• reading quizzes