Description of the ORU

Increased concern with theory in the "human sciences" has led to an opening up of the various fields of the humanities and brought about increased exchanges among them, as literary critics have had to deal with philosophical, linguistic, and historical problems, and philosophers and historians with literary, rhetorical, and aesthetic questions. Out of these exchanges the new interdisciplinary field of critical theory has emerged that focuses on the theoretical underpinnings of the various disciplines in the humanities and has as its chief goal the refinement of theoretical models and the development of new theories to deal with the increasingly complex problems of the humanities.

Planning for 3 to 5 years

Our current project is "Politics, Theory and Contemporary Culture." We are developing a book on this topic to be composed of essays by members of the ORU and guest speakers. The essays are gathered from presentations made to the ORU from 1988-89 through 1990-91. The following year we will revise the volume and develop our next project. Our resource needs will continue at the same level they have been in recent years.
Resources for Critical Theory on Campus will increase however with the proposal now before the Graduate Council for a PhD in Critical Theory and Program in Critical Theory.