



CHID 390A

Professor Maria Elena Garcia | Autumn 2015 | T/TH 12:30-2:20 | Writing | CHID Majors Only

The Politics of Life

The **CHID colloquium** is a reading and discussion course that has traditionally focused on theoretical and practical problems of interpretation and knowledge production. The topic for this quarter's seminar is the broad theme of "life." More specifically, we will expand discussions of "life" to include non-human others; we will expand our thinking about love, loss, and grief; we will consider the politics of vulnerability; who lives at the margins; who lives in conditions of "slow death" as Lauren Berlant might put it. Other questions we will engage: what happens when we consider the possibility that "rocks listen" and "earth-beings" (such as rivers and glaciers) speak? Are spiders and snails self-aware? Can robots suffer? Are plants intelligent? It is my hope that our rigorous examination of these and other issues will serve as windows through which we can view the workings of alterity and marginalization as well as survey pathways to alternative and better futures.