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Cornell U scholar will deliver annual Barber Lecture

Summary: Dr. Jonathan Culler, professor of English and comparative literature, Cornell University, will deliver the 2007 Barber Lecture, "Reading the Flowers of Evil Today," at 7:30 p.m. November 27 in 109 Imholte Hall.

(November 12, 2007)-Dr. Jonathan Culler, professor of English and comparative literature, Cornell University, will deliver the 2007 Barber Lecture, "Reading the Flowers of Evil Today," at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in 109 Imholte Hall at the University of Minnesota, Morris. A reception will follow the lecture, which is free and open to the public.

Educated at Harvard and Oxford Universities, Culler has worked on 19th century French literature and on Flaubert and Baudelaire, in particular. He is perhaps best known for his work in contemporary literary theory and criticism, especially structuralism and deconstruction. He teaches courses on literary theory and on aspects of the history of the lyric. His best-known works are *Flaubert: The Uses of Uncertainty*, *Structuralist Poetics*, *Roland Barthes*, *Ferdinand de Saussure*, *On Deconstruction: Theory and Criticism After Structuralism* and *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*, all of which have been translated into several languages and are known by critics and students of literature and theory around the world.

"For those who are uninitiated to the forbidden pleasures of Charles Baudelaire's *Fleurs du mal*, it was first published in 1857 and posed an obvious (and likely intentional) affront to the rather narrow moral codes of Napoleon III's Second Empire," shared Tammy Berberi, UMM assistant professor of French. "Upon its publication, it was condemned as an 'offense to public decency.' Prosecution resulted in a fine of 300 francs and a ban on six poems in particular the ban on these poems was not lifted until 1949."

The annual Barber Lecture is made possible through philanthropic gifts from the late Dorothy Barber and Laird Barber, UMM professor emeritus of English.

Attendees who would like translations of some of the poems Culler will be discussing in the lecture should contact Tammy Berberi at [Tammy Berberi](#). Free parking is available in the campus' North Lot.

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