

Course Syllabus

Instructor Information:

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Course Information:

Course No. : ENGL 403
Course Title: Contemporary Literary Criticism
Credit Hrs : 3
Course Duration: 15 weeks semester system (3*15=45)
Prerequisites: None

Course Requirement: In order to appreciate *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, the students are required to have the following:

- (i) The students should have a fairly good level of proficiency in oral as well as written English.
- (ii) The students must be willing to work hard and read the relevant text before attending the class.
- (iii) The students must be familiar with the fundamentals of literary appreciation.
- (iv) The students must be adept in the usage of basic analysis skills.
- (v) A vast reading of English literature and literary criticism shall serve as a good background and help understand the concepts discussed in/ for this course.
- (vi) Students opting for this course must have some understanding of literature and literary criticism. If they have already taken a course on the classical literary criticism, it should help.

Text :

- The prescribed course pack.
Literary theories selected from the works of the representative Theorists & Critics belonging to different Ages, reflecting diversity in style, form, thought and genre.
- Any dictionary of literary terms. Some website resources are mentioned below for easy access:

- <http://www.uncp.edu/home/canada/work/allam/general/glossary.htm> (University of North Carolina)
- <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/classroom/terms.htm> (University of Cambridge)
- http://mthoyibi.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/a-glossary-of-literary-terms-7th-ed_m-h-abrams-1999.pdf
- <http://bubo.bbs-haarentor.de/~goerken/Englisch%20Gymnasium/Textanalyse+Textarbeit/Glossary%20of%20literary%20terms.pdf>
- http://abs.kafkas.edu.tr/upload/219/The_Routledge_Dictionary_of_Literary_Terms.pdf

Course Description: With classical literary critical approaches serving as a backdrop, this course offers the latest trends in literary criticism and theory to trace influence and interaction of contemporary literary criticism with the diverse range of literary genres. It is generally thought that criticism offers standards for creative art. In this regard literary criticism is considered to be a guideline for the literary writers. On the other hand most of the literary writers disagree with such a dominant role of criticism. They argue that the process of creation frames its own rules, that the creative sublime itself expresses critical and aesthetic standards for art. Amid all this interesting debate contemporary literary criticism historicizes the primary function of literary creative art. Even today, if we disagree with Plato and Aristotle we heavily rely on their expertise; the controversies or compromises that emerge out of their dialogue. ENGL – 403 offers a research study to develop our thought process around classical literary viewpoints. The rationale is to compare the growing critical concepts and offer a reformulation of these concepts around the literary “reality” as perceived by human imagination.

Course Objectives: Some broad-based learning goals for this course are to:

- Familiarize Students to some of the latest trends in literary and critical theories
- Enhance Student’s reflective thinking order based on their critical readings
- Generate an interdisciplinary interest by comparing and contrasting different critical approaches
- Motivate Students to contribute original ideas by connecting their readings to their research
- Train Students to share their strengths and weaknesses in the field with their peers
- Have an appreciable knowledge of the shaping influences of the different literary eras in the history of Theory & Criticism.
- Get familiar with the representative works and philosophical concerns of the major Critics & Theorists of different regions.
- Explore the critical possibilities of the use and meaning of the words in different texts.

Focused Learning Objectives: The Students will be expected to

- Understand some contemporary literary terms in the field of criticism
- Explore and make use of these literary terms appropriately for research purpose
- Compare/ contrast criticism concepts to formulate independent opinions

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, the students should be able to:

- Present their views on historical development of literary theory;
- Discuss relationship between literary theory and text;
- Express in writing the fundamental ideas of particular theories and schools;
- Exchange their perspectives on works by selected philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, theorists and critics;
- Apply literary theory on the selected literary texts
- Our major learning outcome for the course by the end of the semester is to produce a standard research paper (approx 12-15 pages) in the areas of interest (theory based, genre-based or author-based readings) by making use of a theoretical frame work and relevant apparatus. Details to be discussed and forwarded. (as per MLA)

Course Content:

Selective Primary Readings from:

- *Literary Theory: An Introduction* by Terry Eagleton
- *Literary Theory: The Basics* by Hans Bertens
- *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan Culler
- *Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism* by Ann B. Dobie
- *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory & Practice* by Charles E. Bressler
- *Introducing Literary Theories* by Julian Wolfreys
- *Critical Approaches to Literature* by David Daiches
- *AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING AND CREATIVITY: Think More, Think Better* by Joe Y. F. Lau
- *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory* by Andrew Bennet & Nicholas Royle
- *Literary Theory: An Anthology (Blackwell)* Ed. Julie Rivkin & Michael Ryan

NOTE: We shall welcome guest-speakers and experts visit our class and share their contributions

Suggested Secondary Readings

- *Performing Politics* by Niall Lucy
- *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* by Vincent B. Leitch (following Theorists from this selection)
 - I. Friedrich Nietzsche
 - II. Oscar Wilde
 - III. Sigmund Freud

- IV. Carl Gustav Jung
- V. T.S.Eliot
- VI. Kenneth Burke
- VII. Raymond Williams
- VIII. Frantz Fanon
- IX. Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari
- X. Jean-Francois Lyotard
- XI. Michel Foucault
- XII. Adrienne Rich
- XIII. Chinua Achebe
- XIV. Harold Bloom
- XV. Modern and Contemporary Critical Schools and Movements
 - The Death of Theory by Niall Lucy

Course Evaluation:

Grading will be based on a combination of mid-term and final Examinations, assignments, quizzes, attendance and class participation. The break up is as follows:

Evaluations	Percentage
Class participation	25%
Presentation	15%
2 Assignments	20%
Mid-term Examination	15%
Final Examination	25%
Total	100%

The Grading system for the course is as follows:

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Quality pts</u>	<u>Numerical Value</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
A	4.00	93 –100	SUPERIOR
A-	3.70	90—92	
B+	3.30	87— 89	
B	3.00	83—86	GOOD
B-	2.70	80—82	
C+	2.30	77—79	
C	2.00	73—76	SATISFACTORY
C-	1.70	70—72	
D+	1.30	67—69	
D	1.00	60—66	PASSING
F	0.00	59 or below	FAILING

Attendance Policy:

80% of the attendance is mandatory for eligibility to sit in the final exam. In case of uninformed absence from the class for four consecutive days a student shall have to submit a written application along with a medical certificate, if applicable. Also, the students are expected to be regular and in time for their class.

Missed Exam Policy: The students should not miss the mid-term or final-term Exams on dates due as no re exam would be arranged for them. A chance, however, may be given to the students who have genuine reasons along with the proof. In such a case, the students must come up with a formal application supplemented by the required certificates. The decision will be made in accordance with the student’s attendance and conduct in the class room.

Guidelines on Paper Assignments:

- Assignments have to be neatly typed, double-spaced in font 12, on A4 sized paper.
- Title page of the assignment should carry name, roll number, class, section and date of submission of the assignment.
- Assignment should be submitted strictly in terms of the specified dates. No relaxation in this respect will be viewed.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is unacceptable. Any papers submitted in this class that contain examples of plagiarism will not be given credit.

Guidelines on Class Participation: The students are advised to:

- Be regular in the class.
- Be active and attentive in the class.
- Write class notes, revise and edit them at home.
- Respond in written as well as oral form.
- Ask questions in the class.
- Be ready to seek extra help.
- Avoid plagiarism and cramming.
- Be original.

Course Schedule:

Week	Class	Topics	Evaluation Mode
1.	1.1	Introduction to the Course	Discussion
	1.2	Introduction to Literary Theory	
	1.3	What is criticism?	
2.	2.1	The Platonic Dilemma	Discussion
	2.2	The Aristotelian Solution	
	2.3	The Poet as Moral Teacher	
3.	3.1	Imitation & Instruction	Discussion
	3.2	<i>Literary Theory: The Basics</i> by Hans Bertens	

	3.3	The Basics of Literary Criticism	
4.	4.1	Primary writers in Literary Criticism	Assignment No.1
	4.2	<i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i> by Jonathan Culler	
	4.3	Main streams in Literary Theory I	
5.	5.1	Main streams in Literary Theory II	Discussion
	5.2	<i>Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism</i> by Ann B. Dobie	
	5.3	Reader-Response Criticism	
6.	6.1	Reader-Response Analysis	Discussion
	6.2	Formalism	
	6.3	Formalist Analysis	
7.	7.1	General Discussion	Discussion
	7.2	Comments & Questions	
	7.3	General Discussion	
8.	8.1	MID-Term	Discussion
	8.2	<i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i> by Terry Eagleton	
	8.3	Phenomenology	
9.	9.1	Hermeneutics	Discussion
	9.2	Reception Theory	
	9.3	Structuralism	
10.	10.1	Semiotics	Presentation
	10.2	Post-Structuralism	
	10.3	Psychoanalysis	
11.	11.1	Political Criticism	Assignment No. 2
	11.2	<i>Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory & Practice</i> by Charles E. Bressler	
	11.3	Feminism	
12.	12.1	Marxism	Discussion
	12.2	Cultural Poetics	
	12.3	Post-colonialism	
13.	13.1	Ecocriticism	Discussion
	13.2	Ecocritical Analysis	
	13.3	Post-humanism	
14.	14.1	Post-human Analysis	Reviews
	14.2	General Discussion	
	14.3	Observations, Discussion, Problems & Questions	
		Final Examination	