

Ph.D. Programme in English Literature
Department of English Language and Literature
Faculty of Foreign Languages
University of Jordan

Course number: 2201910

Course title: Readings in Literary Theory

Instructor: Dr. Samira al-Khawaldeh

Course Description:

This course consists of a selection of important and representative works from all the major theoretical schools and orientations in modern and contemporary literary theory together with their historical backgrounds. Such theories include formalism, structuralist and post-structuralist poetics, narratology, psychological/psychoanalytic criticism, feminism, reader-response criticism and deconstruction. The ultimate aim is to place the major literary theorists in the context of the approach they exemplify.

Learning outcomes: Students are expected to

- identify major theories, movements and trends,
- be able to connect theories with their historical, cultural and intellectual contexts,
- construct a narrative of a prominent concept in theory,
- deduce conclusions about the cognate or contradictory views in theory, and
- write a scholarly research paper on a relevant topic.

Methods: The teaching and learning will be conducted through

- discussion, analysis and feedback;
- students' presentations on assigned subjects and their written papers;
- applying a comparative and critical approach to different aspects of different theories; and
- Videos, guest speakers

Course content:

The instructor will suggest texts for weekly reading; however, students are encouraged to regularly refer to the works in the reference list.

Week 1	General introduction
Week 2 +3	Classical theories
Week 4	neo-classicism and moral theory (17 th – 19 th century)
Week 5	Aestheticism
Week 6	Freudian Psychoanalysis
Week 7	Jungian Analytical Psychology
Week 8	Marxism
Week 9	Post-colonial Theory
Week 10	Reader's Response
Week 11	Deconstruction
Week 12	New Historicism And Cultural theories

Week 13	Feminism
Week 14	Literary Theory today
Week 15	Research topic presentations
Week 16	Final Exam

Course evaluation:

Presentations and participation: 10% of the grade;

Term papers: 20%;

Mid-term test: 30%

Final exam: 40%

The term paper: Each student writes a term paper of approximately 3000 words on a topic approved by the instructor. Deadline for submitting the hard copy is the class of week 13. A soft copy should be submitted the same day.

References:

Many of the following texts are classics usually accessible on the public domain; others are available at UJ's library, especially the e-library. If not, the instructor will help provide copies.

Adamson, Jane, et al., *Renegotiating Ethics in Literature, Philosophy, and Theory*

Adorno, Theodor W., *The Culture Industry*

Aristotle, *Poetics*

Arnold, Matthew, *Culture and Anarchy*

Ashcroft, Bill, et al. *The Empire Writes Back*

-----, *The Post-colonial Studies Reader*

Barry, Peter, *Beginning Theory: an Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*

Bertens, Hans, *The Idea of the Postmodern*

Bhabha, Homi, *The Location of Culture*

Bloom, Harold, "The Dialectics of Poetic Tradition"

-----, *The Anxiety of Influence*

Brooks, Anne, *Postfeminisms: Feminism, Cultural Theory and Cultural Forms*

Butler, Judith, *What's Left of Theory?*

Buchanan, Ian, *A Dictionary of Critical Theory*

Caldwell, Christopher, *Studies in a Dying Culture*

-----, "English Poets I, II, and III" (in his *Illusion and Reality*)

Chaitin, Gilbert D., *Rhetoric and Culture in Lacan*

Connor, Steven, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodernism*

Dallmayr, Fred, *Beyond Orientalism: Essays on Cross-Cultural Encounter*

Derrida, Jacques, *On Grammatology*

Eagleton, Terry, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*

Fanon, Frantz, *Black Skins, White Masks*

Freud, Sigmund, *Collected Works*, ed. James Strachey

Frye, Northrop, *Anatomy of Criticism* essay 3: Archetypal criticism, theory of myths 131-140

Gaston, Sean, *Starting with Derrida: Plato, Aristotle and Hegel*

Gramsci, Antonio, *Selections from the Prison Notebook*

Horace, *Ars Poetica*

Hutcheon, Linda, *A Poetics of Postmodernism*

-----, *Towards a Poetics of Culture*

Jameson, Fredric, *The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*

-----, *Marxism and Form: Twentieth-Century Dialectical Theories of Literature*

Johnson, Samuel, "A Preface to Shakespeare"

Jung, C. G., and Hull, R. F. C., *The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious*

Leavis, F. R., *The Common Pursuit*

Longinus, *On the sublime*

Lukács, Georg, *The Theory of the Novel*

-----, "The Ideology of Modernism"

Neu, Jerome, *The Cambridge Companion to Freud*

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, "Literature and Society" (in his *Writers in Politics*)

Plato, *The Republic*

Poe, Edgar Allan, "The Poetic Principle"

Said, Edward, *Orientalism*

-----, *Culture and Imperialism*

Sartre, Jean-Paul, *What Is Literature?*

Selden, Raman, *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Tong, Rosemary, *Feminist Thought: a Comprehensive Introduction: "The Varieties of Feminist Thinking"*

White, Hayden, *Metahistory*

Wilde, Oscar, "The Decay of Lying", "The Critic as Artist", "The Truth of Masks"

Wolfgang Iser, *How to do theory*

-----, *The Act of Reading*

-----, *The Implied Reader*

Young-Eisendrath, Polly, and Dawson, Terence, *The Cambridge Companion to Jung*