

University of Jordan
Department of English
Ph.D. in Literature Program
Major Critic: Northrop Frye

Frank Kermode, himself a major critic, writes: "It is only rarely that one can say of a practitioner that he cannot safely be left unread. But one has to say it of Frye." And David Lodge, who has included two essays by Frye instead of the usual one by most of the other critic in his *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, has endorsed this view by saying that Frye "is certainly one of the most stimulating, cultured and witty of contemporary critics."

Frye's importance for us is twofold: (1) he is a major theorist of literature, whose *Anatomy of Criticism* is considered a landmark of modern criticism; (2) he is a brilliant practitioner. His practical criticism includes three books on Shakespeare, one on Blake, one on the Romantic poets, one on T. S. Eliot, and numerous other books and influential articles on literature and society. In this course we will try to cover as much of the theory as possible, but we will also try to see how he applied his own theories to specific writers and works.

Students are strongly urged to read, not only the texts written by Frye himself, but also as many of the works he deals with as possible, for lack of familiarity with those works can obscure Frye's insights and make his contribution difficult to appreciate.

Evaluation

Mid-term Examination:	30%
Reports, Presentations, and a 20-page research paper:	30%
Final Examination:	40%

Note: The research paper will be due two weeks before the date of the final examination. No late submissions will be accepted. Students will, therefore, be well advised to start working on the paper as early in the course as possible. They should aim at producing original, well-documented work that can potentially be published.

Course Policies

- University of Jordan policy on attendance applies to Ph. D. students.
- Plagiarism will result in automatic failure in the course.

- Students are expected to make copies of their reports for other members of the class for mutual benefit. This does not apply to research papers.
- Students are expected to submit **both** an electronic as well as a print version of their reports and papers.

Weekly Assignments	
1	The Archetypes of Literature (<i>Fables of Identity</i>) Myth, Fiction, and Displacement (<i>Fables of Identity</i>) The Argument of Comedy (<i>Theories of Comedy</i> , ed. Lauter)
2	<i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> : Introduction and First Essay
3	<i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> : Second Essay
4	<i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> : Third Essay
5	<i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> : Fourth Essay and Tentative Conclusion
6	<i>The Educated Imagination</i>
7	<i>A Study of English Romanticism</i>
8	Midterm Examination
9	<i>A Natural Perspective</i>
10	<i>Fools of Time</i>
11	<i>The Secular Scripture</i> : Selections
12	<i>The Stubborn Structure</i> : Selections
13	<i>T. S. Eliot</i>
14	<i>The Well-Tempered Critic</i>
15	<i>The Critical Path</i>
16	Final Examination

References

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- Denham, Robert D., and Thomas Willard. *Visionary Poetics: Essays on Northrop Frye's Criticism*. New York: Peter Lang, 1991.
- Frye, Northrop. *Fearful Symmetry: A Study of William Blake*; 1947. Boston: Beacon Press, 1962.
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- *A Natural Perspective: The Development of Shakespearean Comedy and Romance*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1965.
- *Fools of Time: Studies in Shakespearean Tragedy*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1967.
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- *A Study of English Romanticism*. New York: Random House, 1968.
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- *The Critical Path: An Essay on the Social Context of Literary Criticism*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana Univ. Press, 1973.
- *The Secular Scripture: A Study of the Structure of Romance*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1976.
- *Northrop Frye on Culture and Literature: A Collection of Review Essays*. Ed. Robert D. Denham. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1978
- *The Great Cod: The Bible and Literature*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1982.
- *The Myth of Deliverance: Reflections on Shakespeare's Problem Plays*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1983.
- Hamilton, A. C. *Northrop Frye: Anatomy of His Criticism*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1990.
- Krieger, Murray, ed. *Northrop Frye in Modern Criticism*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1966.
- Lauter, Paul, ed. *Theories of Comedy*. New York: Doubleday, 1964
- Lee, Alvin A, and Robert D. Denham, eds. *The Legacy of Northrop Frye*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1994.