



# Philadelphia University

Faculty of Arts

Department of English

First Semester 2018/2019

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## Course Syllabus

<b>Course Title: Introduction to Criticism</b> <b>Level: Third Year</b> <b>Prerequisite (s): 120251</b>	<b>Course Code: 0120484</b> Lecture Hall: 408 <b>Credit Hours: 3</b> <b>Lecture Time: 8.10- 9.00</b>
Instructor's Name: Dr. Nadia Hamdi Office Number: 412 Office Hours: Sun, Tue, Thu: 9.00- 10.00; Mon, Wed: 8.15- 9.30 Ext: 2612 E-mail: nhamdi@philadelphia.edu.jo	

### Course Description:

This course is to acquaint students with a range of critical methodologies that have gained currency since the beginning of the twentieth century. The kinds of criticism considered include formalism (New Critical), structuralism, Marxism, reader-response, psychoanalysis, and feminism. Emphasis will not only be placed on the theoretical aspects of these systems, but also on their socio-cultural origins, politics and applicability.

### Aims (Course Purpose/Objectives):

1. To introduce students to recent developments within twentieth century literary criticism.
2. To examine in detail a range of current theoretical paradigms including Cultural Criticism, Marxism(s), Formalism, Structuralism, Psychoanalysis, Post-Modernism, Ethnic Studies, Feminism(s), Gender Studies.
3. To enable students to develop theoretically informed approaches to literature.
4. To alert students to the affinities and differences which exist between competing theories and approaches.
5. to encourage students to develop their own ideas about literature, its form, its function, and its politics.



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**Teaching Methods:( Lectures ,Discussion Groups, Tutorials, Problem Solving, Debates...etc)**

The Course will be delivered in the form of lectures and class discussions. Lectures will provide a critical overview and introduction to the theoretical issues under consideration. These issues will be picked up and developed further in the class discussions. Each week students will be expected to prepare for the lectures/discussions by reading the particular extracts of theoretical material shown in the attached syllabus and available in the course reader. These extracts will form the basis for the close debate of key issues in the class sessions. The class discussion will provide the opportunity for a detailed consideration, application and critique of the issues or theoretical paradigms in question. In order that students are properly prepared for these sessions preparatory reading of primary and secondary criticism is strongly advised. See Suggested Bibliography below.

This Course is designed to foster an active, participatory, independent approach to learning.

**Course/ Course Components:**

**1. Books (title, author(s), publisher, year of publication)**

Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan, eds., *Literary Theory: An Anthology* [Blackwell, 1998]. ISBN 0-631-20029-0

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction* [Blackwell Publishers, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1997]. ISBN-10: 0631201882, ISBN-13: 978-0631201885

**2. Support Material(s): a/v materials**

**3. Supplementary Readings (Books, Periodicals..... etc)**

Nicholas Royle, Andrew Bennett, *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory* [London: Longman, 2004]. ISBN: 0582822955

Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* [Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002]. ISBN: 0719062683

Peter V. Zima, *The Philosophy of Modern Literary Theory* [London: Continuum Collection, 2005]. ISBN: 082647893X

Daniel Chandler, *Semiotics: The Basics* [London: Routledge, 2004]. ISBN: 0415351111



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Chris Hopkins, *Thinking About Texts: An Introduction to English Studies*. Basingstoke: Palgrave 2001

Vincent B. Leitch, Ed., *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* [W. W. Norton & Company, June 2001]. ISBN-10: 0393974294, ISBN-13: 978-0393974294

J. A. Cuddon, *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (Penguin Dictionary), 4<sup>th</sup> edition, [Penguin: 2000]. ISBN-10: 0140513639, ISBN-13: 978-0140513639

4. **Study Guide(s) (if available)**

5. **Homework and Laboratory Guide(s) (if applicable):**

**Contribution to Program Learning Outcomes:**

**A1, A2, A4, A5, B1, B2, B4, B5, C1, C2, C6, C7, D2**

**Intended Learning Outcomes: (Knowledge and Understanding, Cognitive Skills, Communication Skills, Transferable skills).**

**a. Knowledge & Understanding:**

1. to understand the major developments in twentieth-century critical and literary theory.
2. to have a general knowledge of the key theoretical issues which have influenced modern literary criticism.

**b. Cognitive Skills (Thinking & Analysis):**

1. to understand a variety of literary-critical terms and concepts
2. to better comprehend the relationship between content and literary form
3. to argue in an informed manner about critical, methodological and theoretical issues, supporting the argument with textual evidence and relating theoretical ideas to the analysis required by own work
4. to identify the affinities and differences between widely differing theories to form an independent, informed judgement.

**c. Communicative Skills (Personal and Academic)**

1. to develop self-consciousness about critical practice



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2. to apply a variety of critical theories to literary analysis and evaluate the usefulness of these different theories to own work and interests.
3. to use a wide-ranging literary-critical vocabulary.

**d. Practical and Subject Specific Skills (Transferable Skills)**

1. to manage own learning time and learning activities
2. to undertake independent scholarly research and exercise independent critical judgment
3. to negotiate individual assessment tasks and/or topics, identifying own areas of strength and interest;
4. to organise and present information and arguments on a designated topic in both oral and written English
5. to use a wide range of IT skills in researching and reporting on a topic.

**Assessment Instruments**

Modes of Assessment	Score	Date
1 <sup>st</sup> Exam	20	18 Nov
2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam	20	23 Dec
Research paper (reports) and presentations or Tutorials.	10	
Quizzes/ assignments	10	
Final Exam	40	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Documentation and Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to complete all homework, papers and projects independently (unless otherwise specified); any work must be yours and yours alone. Working together for anything other than data collection, relying on students' work from previous semesters and/or plagiarizing published research is considered cheating.

**1. Documentation Style (with illustrative examples)**

**Reference list styles**

Note: it is usual to italicize book titles; however, if you are not able to do this, you should underline them instead.

\* Book

Trudgill, P. and Hannah, J. (1994,3<sup>rd</sup> edn) *International English*, London, Edward Arnold.



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Fodor, J.A. (1983) *The Modularity of Mind*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Harré, R. and Gillett, G. (1994) *The Discursive Mind*. London: Sage.

\* Chapter/ extract from an edited collection

Harris, J. (1993) 'The grammar of Irish English' in Milroy, J. and Milroy, L. (eds) *Real English: the grammar of English dialects in the British Isles*, London, Longman.

\* Paper in a journal of magazine

Wales, L. (1994) 'Royalese: the rise and fall of "the Queen's English" ', *English Today*, vol. 10, no.3, pp. 3-10.

## **Journal article:**

Roulet, E. (1997). 'A Modular Approach to Discourse Structures'. *Pragmatics* 7(2), 125–46.

Lee, E. T. & Zadeh, L. A. (1969). 'Note on fuzzy languages'. *Information Sciences* 1, 421–434.

## **Book article:**

Sinha, Chris. (1999). 'Grounding, mapping and acts of meaning'. In T. Janssen and G. Redeker (Eds.), *Cognitive Linguistics, Foundations, Scope and Methodology*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, pp. 223-256.

## **Magazine article:**

Posner, M. I. (1993, October 29). Seeing the mind. *Science*, 262, 673-674.

## **Daily newspaper article:**

'New drug appears to sharply cut risk of death from heart failure'. (1993, July 15). *The Washington Post*, p. A12.

## **Entry in an encyclopedia:**

Bergman, P. G. (1993). 'Relativity'. In *The new encyclopedia Britannica* (Vol. 26, pp. 501-508). Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica.

## **Documenting Web Sources**



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Burka, Lauren P. 'A Hypertext History of Multi-User Dimensions.' *MUD History*. 1993. <<http://www.ccs.neu.edu/home/1pb/mud-history.html>> (5 Dec. 1994).

Harnack, Andrew and Gene Kleppinger. *Beyond the MLA Handbook: Documenting Electronic Sources on the Internet*. 25 November 1996. <<http://falcon.eku.edu/honors/beyond-mla/>> (17 Dec. 1997).

For more about APA and MLA Styles for Citing Print Sources, browse:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01>

<http://wally.rit.edu/internet/subject/apamla.htm>

## 2. Protection of Copyright

Publications in all forms require permission from the copyright owner in advance. You are not allowed to reproduce, store in a retrieval system, or transmit, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher or a license from the Copyright Licensing Agency Limited. ([www.cla.co.uk](http://www.cla.co.uk)).

Students are expected to respect and uphold the standards of honesty in all their activities. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in disciplinary action to be determined by the instructor based on the severity and nature of the offense.

## 3. Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that will result in your failing the course. Learning notes by heart and repeating the information word by word in the exam is a type of plagiarism.



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**Course / Course Academic Calendar:**

Week	Basic & Support Material to be covered	Homework/Reports and their due dates
1. 14- 18 Oct	Introduction to Theory	Read the chapter entitled 'Everything you wanted to know about Critical Theory but were afraid to ask'
2. 21- 25 Oct	Introduction to Theory	
3. 28 Oct- 1 Nov	Marxist Theory	All students MUST have read Fitzgerald's, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
4. 4- 8 Nov	Marxist Theory	
5. 11- 15 Nov	Marxist Theory	
6. 18- 22 Nov	New Criticism	1 <sup>st</sup> Exam
7. 25- 29 Nov	New Criticism	
8. 2- 6 Dec	New Criticism	
9. 9- 13 Dec	Psychoanalytic Criticism	Students MUST read Roland Barthes, 'The Death of the Author'
10. 16- 20 Dec	Psychoanalytic Criticism	
11. 23- 27 Dec	Psychoanalytic Criticism	2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam
12. 30 Dec- 3 Jan	Feminist Criticism	Students need to research selected Disney movies with female protagonists such as Frozen, Brave, Pocahontas.
13. 6- 10 Jan	Feminist Criticism	Deadline for presentations
14. 13- 17 Jan	Feminist Criticism	
15. 20- 24 Jan	Reader -Response	
16.		Final Exam



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## Expected Workload.

On average students are expected to spend at least (2) hours of study for each 50- minute lecture/ tutorial.

## Attendance Policy

Absence from lectures and /or tutorials shall not exceed 15% . Students who exceed the 15% limit without a medical or emergency excuse acceptable to and approved by the Dean of the relevant college /faculty shall not be allowed to take the final examination and shall receive a mark of zero for the course. If the excuse is approved by the Dean, the student shall be considered to have withdrawn from the course.

## Course/ Course Policies:

1. You are allowed up to (5) absences on Mondays/Wednesdays or (7) absences on Sundays/Tuesdays/Thursdays. If you exceed this number, you will fail the course.
2. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you come to class after I take attendance, you are welcome to attend, but you will be considered absent.
3. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that will result in your failing the course.
4. Learning notes by heart and repeating the information word by word in the exam is a type of plagiarism.
5. Participation is and essential part of course work. It does not merely mean coming to class; it involves preparing before hand and playing an active role in class discussion.
6. Make-up exams will be offered for valid reasons only with the consent of the Dean.

## Text Book(s):

Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan, eds., *Literary Theory: An Anthology* [Blackwell, 1998]. ISBN 0-631-20029-0

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction* [Blackwell Publishers, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1997]. ISBN-10: 0631201882, ISBN-13: 978-0631201885

## References:

- Books





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- *Journals*

- *Websites*

An excellent website that contains a lot of links to literary theory and criticism web pages you can find at <http://www.42explore.com/litcrit.htm>