Course Syllabus

Module Title: Stylistics  
Level: MA  
Prerequisite (s):  
Co- requisite(s):  
Module Code: 0120723  
Credit Hours: 3 Hours  
Lecture Time: Tuesday, 3:00 -6:00

Lecturer's Name: Prof. Nayef Al-Joulan  
Rank: Full Professor  
Office Hours: Sun., Tues., Thurs., 10-11 & by appointment  
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Course Coordinator: Prof. Mohamad Asfour  

Course Description:  

This course is primarily concerned with the function of stylistics in facilitating literary response and in understanding the techniques and features of literary texts (with marginal cross-references drawn from such areas of English performance as the media and narrative and forensic linguistics (language and the law). A broad selection of topics central to contemporary linguistics will be discussed, especially those that are particularly illuminating in textual analysis. Selected literary works that have proved to be of considerable interest in literary criticism will be used as a basis for discussion in class. Attention is given to both literary and linguistic stylistics with a view to exploring the relation between style and literary function. By the end of the course, students can acquire understanding of the principles of stylistic analysis and theory. They will be equipped with clear understanding of how language works, how to identify the essence of an author’s style and how advertisements and commercials win people over. 

Keywords: Style, stylistics, linguistic criticism, literary language, characterization, point-of-view, setting, repetition, linguistic choice, style and meaning, patterns, deviations, foregrounding, narrator, plot, etc.

2. Purpose of the Course:  

- To develop students’ skills in all aspects (keywords/key issues above) of literary stylistic analysis and research.  
- To familiarize students with a set of analytical TOOLS from the "stylistician's toolkit" that they can use to examine texts (for example, words, sounds, structures, or interactive aspects).
• Overall, to be able to submit a research paper on an agreed-upon topic for publication in a refereed journal

**Teaching Methods**
The module’s weekly three-hour sessions are taught in a variety of forms to suit the different areas covered. As well as lectures, there will be presentations, in-class workshops, and follow up discussions of students submitted written work-in-progress.

**Course Components:**
**TEXTBOOKS and Supplementary readings:**

Lesley Jeffries, *Stylistics* (Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics)


**Writing samples: the following list of the instructor’s published research will be used as practical examples:**

**Monographs/Books**

Published refereed journal articles (according to genre)

Poetry

- "Aesthetic Dying: The Arab's Heroic Encounter with Death,” *Canadian Social Science, Canada*, vol. 6, no. 6 (2010): 31-44.

Novel and short story

- “Below the level of the visible: The Mathematics and Physics of Space in Jane Smiley’s *A Thousand Acres,*” *Cross-cultural Communication, Canada*, vol. 6, no. 3 (2010): 83-96.

Drama


Criticism

Online sources

http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/writing/style

On the following pages, we will explain some of the most important stylistic devices (also called rhetorical devices or figures of speech) – they are not only useful for analyzing texts, but also for creating your own texts.

Stylistic devices make your speeches, essays etc. more interesting and lively and help you to get and keep your reader’s / listener’s attention.

Stylistic Devices

- Alliteration
- Anaphora
- Hyperbole
- Litotes
- Metonymy
- Onomatopoeia
- Repetition
- Rhetorical Question
- Simile
- Synecdoche
- Understatement

http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/series/advances-in-stylistics/

Advances in Stylistics

Series Editor: Dan McIntyre (University of Huddersfield, UK)

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Larry Stewart, College of Wooster, USA
Manuel Jobert, Jean Moulin University, Lyon 3, France
5. **Intended Learning Outcomes** (cognition and analysis, personal and academic communicative skills, Practical and subject-specific transferrable skills)

Stylistics is a systematic way of exploring (primarily literary) texts. It looks at the language of texts and tries to explain how that language creates meaning, style and effect. The main aim of the course is to make students appreciate and understand the functional interpretation and construction of texts. At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Identify the principles and tools of stylistic analysis;
- Describe the principles and tools of stylistic analysis;
- Analyze texts beyond its formal features using the principles and tools of stylistic analysis.
- Select a research topic and appropriate research strategies
- Deliver a clear, well-timed oral presentation appropriate to the topic and the audience.
- Present written work stylistically analyzing a work of literature in accordance with a system of guidelines to conventions of academic writing (e.g. MLA, Chicago manual etc.)

6. **Attendance and Participation:**
Attendance is expected to be regular, and absence is treated with reference to the University's policy on this matter. Student participation is essential.

7. **Assessment:**

- Mid-term Exam: 30%
- Research Paper: 20% to be submitted by the end of week 12.
- Presentations: 10%
- Final Exam: 40%

Checklist:
• Awareness of the tools of stylistic analysis and content and techniques of literary works
• Note taking
• Arguing and counter-arguing
• Presenting work-in-progress
• Writing up and presenting a research paper
• Keeping a journal

The following points should be borne in mind when preparing for the term paper:

• Concentrate on the features of the text that you consider to be most relevant to the understanding of the text.
• Follow relevant principles.
• Demonstrate each point by quoting examples and describing the communicative strategies that are employed in detail.
• Relate your analysis to the meaning of the text, showing how your insight into the language of the text informs the literary communication.
• Ensure that your essay is a coherent and well-structured essay.

**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**


   * **Chapter/extract from an edited collection**

* Paper in a journal of magazine


Journal article:


Book article:

Magazine article:

Daily newspaper article:

Entry in an encyclopedia:

Documenting Web Sources


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).
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.

Deadlines
To be agreed on democratically but within the course time limits

Suggested topics
A separate handout for students to sign up for topics (given a week to chose)

Weekly plan
General introduction: style, stylistics, and literature
Goals of stylistics; types of stylistics
Stylistics and the levels of language
Foregrounding: Deviation and Repetition
Point of view
Stylistics in the novel: Perspective, deictic, and representation,
Contextual stylistics,
Roman Jakobson and stylistics,
Theories of fictional narrative: Genette
A detailed look at poems: stylistic analysis of poetry
    (rhyme, rhythm, figurative language etc.)
A detailed look at prose fiction: stylistic analysis of prose
    (plot, character, narrator, point of view, setting, etc.)
A detailed look at drama: stylistic analysis of drama
    (dialogue, scene, stage directions, costumes, etc.)
A detailed look at non-literary texts: stylistic analysis of advertisements