

Hacettepe University
Faculty of Letters
Department of English Language and Literature

Syllabus

Title of the Course: IED 444 (02) Literary Criticism II

Instructor: Doç. Dr. Aytül Özüm

Year and Term: 2011-2012 Spring

Class Hours: Wed: 13:00- 15:45

I. Aim and Contents: The aim of this course is to study contemporary literary theories from I. A. Richards to the new developments in the 1970s onwards. We will start with T.S. Eliot and continue with I.A. Richards's critical views, New Criticism, Russian Formalism, Structuralist Criticism, Poststructuralist Theories and Deconstruction, New Historicism, Reception Aesthetics and Reader-Response Criticism, Hermeneutics, Feminist Criticism, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Marxist Criticism and ecocritical theories of literature. The aim of this course is to develop a critical awareness of contemporary literary theory and its function in the interpretation of literary texts. Examining the major texts of contemporary theorists will provide the students with a perspective of the contemporary debates on reading and interpreting literature. There will be special focus of attention on the following theorists: W. K. Wimsatt, Roman Jakobson, Ferdinand de Saussure, Roland Barthes, Levi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Jacques Lacan, Wolfgang Iser, Stanley Fish, Hayden White, Stephen Greenblatt, Julia Kristeva, Helen Cixous, Elaine Showalter, Heidegger, Glotfelty. The course will also look at certain critical concepts in theory and criticism such as representation, textuality, historicism, contextualism, defamiliarisation, difference, discourse, intertextuality, logocentrism, subjectivity and writing.

II. Course Outline:

Week I-II: T.S. Eliot's "Tradition and Individual Talent." New Criticism (Introduction to Linguistic Revolution) Basic terms: irony, tension, ambiguity, paradox, close reading. Poe's "Tell-Tale Heart," John Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale," Ted Hughes's "Thought Fox," Wimsatt and Beardsley's "Affective Fallacy" and "Intentional Fallacy."

Week III-IV: Russian Formalism: literariness, defamiliarisation, fabula, device, Victor Sklovsky and Roman Jakobson. Craig Raine's "A Martian Sends a Postcard Home."

Week V-VI: Structuralism: Figurative levels in the discourse, binary oppositions, metaphor, metonymy, synchronic and diachronic approaches. Saussure's "Course in General Linguistics," Roland Barthes's "Structuralist Activity," Levi-Strauss's "The Structural Study of Myth." Hemingway's "Cat in the Rain."

Week VII: Midterm I and a brief introduction to poststructuralism.

Week VIII-IX: Poststructuralism and deconstruction: intertextuality, discourse, difference, logocentrism and phonocentrism. Foucault's "What is an author?" Roland Barthes's "Death of the Author" and "Theory of the Text."

Week X: New Historicism: Historicity of texts and textuality of history, reading of literary and non-literary texts.

Week XI-XII: Reception Theory and Reader-Response Criticism, Hermeneutics: Iser, Fish, Gadamer and Jauss. **Midterm II.**

Week XIII: Feminist Criticism: Elaine Showalter, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, Kristeva, Cixous.

Week XIV: Psychoanalytic theory, Marxist theory, Ecocriticism. (A survey)

III. Textbooks:

Raman Selden, *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory and Practising Theory and Reading Literature*

K.M. Newton, *Theory and Practice*

Rice and Waugh, *Modern Literary Theory*

Lois Tyson, *Critical Theory Today: A User Friendly Guide*

Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory*

and articles will be provided by the lecturer.

IV. Method of Instruction: Lectures and student presentations

V. Requirements: Attendance is obligatory. More than eleven hours of absence will result in F1. The students are expected to come to class having read about the assigned theory.

VI. Assessment: In the grading of exam papers, up to 25% of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. There will be group presentations on the theoretical movements. There will be two midterms (20% each) group presentation (10%) and a final exam (50%). Marks below 50 in the final will be regarded as failure. Class participation will be seriously taken into consideration while giving the final grades.