

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IED 441 (02) Literary Criticism I

Instructor: Prof.Dr. Serpil OPPERMANN

Year and Term: 2015 FALL

Classroom and Hours: Monday 13:00-15:50 B2/203

Office Hours:

Aim of the Course:

This course introduces the students to the rise and development of literary criticism from its beginnings in Antiquity to the Romantic Theories of literature in the 19th century. Starting with the origins of criticism in Antiquity, students will be acquainted with the Homeric rhapsodes and their interpretative methods, the moral criticism of the Ionian philosophers and the use of Allegory as a rhapsodic defense of Homer's works. This is necessary for understanding Plato and Aristotle and the mimetic theories of literature as well as the beginnings of literary criticism. The main aim of this course is to study the general outlines of Mimetic theories of literature by focusing on the primary texts of major philosophers and poets dealing with the critical properties of literary texts, and then how these theories have come to be challenged after almost 2000 years of their domination in the Western literary tradition.

Course Outline:

Week I: Introduction to the development of criticism in Antiquity: Homeric rhapsodes; the moral criticism of the Ionian philosophers; the use of Allegory as a rhapsodic defense of Homer's works.

Week II-: PLATO's main philosophical views on poetry and criticism: *Ion* and *The Republic* Books 2,3,5,7,9,10

Week III-IV: ARISTOTLE's pragmatic approach to poetry and criticism: *Poetics*

Week V: HORACE's views on criticism: *Ars Poetica*

Week VI-VII: Literary Criticism in the Renaissance: The Rise of Italian Renaissance: Scaliger, Minturno, Vida  
The Rise of English Literary Criticism: SIDNEY: *An Apology for Poetry*, Ben JONSON: *Timber*

Week VIII.: John DRYDEN: *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy*

Week IX : Midterm I

Week X-XI Literary Criticism in the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century and Neo-Classical principles of criticism.  
Alexander POPE: *An Essay on Criticism*  
Samuel JHONSON: From "Pope" in *Lives of the Poets*

Week XII-XIII: Introduction to Romantic Theories of Literature: Schleiermacher, Fichte, Schlegels, Kant  
WORDSWORTH: Preface to *The lyrical Ballads*,  
COLERIDGE: *Biographia Literaria* (chapters IV, XIII, XIV),  
SHELLEY: *A Defense of Poetry*,  
ARNOLD: "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time."

Week XIV: Midterm II (optional)

Week XV: Final Exam

Method of Instruction: Interactive, lectures and class discussions.

Course Requirements: Class attendance is obligatory. More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1. Students are responsible for having read the assigned texts and come to class fully prepared for class discussions.

Assessment: There will be TWO midterm exams (50 %) and a Final exam (50%). In the grading of exam papers, up to 25% of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. The dates of midterm exams are subject to change.

Course Material/Textbooks:

The main textbook: Walter and Vivian Sutton, eds. *Plato to Alexander Pope: Backgrounds to Modern Criticism*. New York: The Odyssey Press, 1966.

1. PLATO: *Ion*, and *The Republic*, Books 2,3,5,7,9,10.
2. ARISTOTLE: *Poetics*
3. HORACE: *Ars Poetica*
4. SIDNEY: *An Apology for Poetry*
5. JONSON: *Timber*
6. DRYDEN: *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy*
7. POPE: *An Essay on Criticism*
8. WORDSWORTH: *Preface to The lyrical Ballads*
9. COLERIDGE: *Biographia Literaria* (chapters IV, XIII, XIV),
10. SHELLEY: *A Defense of Poetry*
11. ARNOLD: "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time."
12. *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vols. I and II
13. William K. Wimsatt, and Cleanth Brooks: *Classical Criticism: A Short History*,  
*Neo-Classical Criticism: A Short History*  
*Romantic Criticism: A Short History*
14. Kathleen Freeman: *Ancilla to the Pre-Socratic Philosophers*

