

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SYLLABUS

<b>Title of the Course</b>	: İED 441 (02) Literary Theory and Criticism I
<b>Instructor</b>	: Assist. Prof. Dr. Merve Sarı Tüzün
<b>Year and Term</b>	: 2023-2024 Autumn
<b>Class Hours, Day and Classroom</b>	: Tuesday 09:40-12:30 B2/203
<b>Office Hours</b>	: By appointment
<b>E-mail</b>	: merve@hacettepe.edu.tr

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**Aim and Contents:**

The aim of this course is to present students an overview of the historical and theoretical development of western literary criticism from its origins in Ancient Greece to the early twentieth century. It specifically focuses on Plato, Aristotle, Horace, medieval and Renaissance literary criticism, Neo-classical literary theory, the Romantics, the Victorian literary theory and criticism, and the early twentieth-century literary theory and criticism. It also aims to provide students with a foundation to critically analyse the main issues and principles of literary criticism and theory as well as to appreciate the significance of literary theory and criticism for literary studies. To this end, this course will address questions regarding theory, criticism, and the critic; the nature, function, and value of literature; the criteria used to evaluate literature (what is great literature? what makes a literary work great?); aesthetics (what is beauty? what makes a literary work beautiful?); the language of a literary work, etc.

**Week I (03 Oct.):** General Introduction

**Week II-III (10-17 Oct.): Classical literary theory & criticism:** Plato from *Ion* and *The Republic* (Books 2, 3, 7, 10) (c. 375 BC)

**Week IV-V (24-31 Oct.):** Aristotle *Poetics* (c. 335 BC)

**Week VI (7 Nov.):** Horace *Ars Poetica* (c. 19 BC), Longinus "On the Sublime" (1st c. AD) (tentative), Dante Alighieri Letter to Can Grande della Scala (early 14th century) (tentative)

**Week VII (14 Nov.): Renaissance literary theory & criticism:** Sir Philip Sidney "An Apology for Poetry" ("The Defence of Poesy") (c. 1580), Edmund Spenser "October Eclogue" from *The Shepheardes Calender* (1579) (tentative), Ben Jonson from *Timber, or Discoveries Made upon Men and Matter* (1641) (tentative)

**Week VIII (21 Nov.):** Midterm Exam

**Week IX-X (28 Nov.-5 Dec.): Neo-classical literary theory & criticism:** John Dryden *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668), Alexander Pope *An Essay on Criticism* (1711), Samuel Johnson "Preface to Shakespeare" (1768)

**Week XI-XII (12-19 Dec.): Romantic literary theory & criticism:** William Wordsworth Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1798), S. T. Coleridge from *Biographia Literaria* (1817), Percy Bysshe Shelley *A Defence of Poetry* (1821), John Keats from his letters (written between 1815 – 1821) (tentative)

**Week XIII (26 Dec.): Victorian literary theory & criticism:** Matthew Arnold "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (1865) and "The Study of Poetry" (1880) (tentative), Henry James "The Art of Fiction" (1884) (tentative)

**Week XIV (2 Jan.): Early twentieth century literary theory & criticism:** T. S. Eliot "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (1919)

**Coursebook:** The course material will be provided by the instructor as a course pack.

**Supplementary Reading:** Reading lists on related materials will be provided prior to the study of texts. For further reading, you may refer to Hacettepe, Bilkent and METU libraries as well as online sources.

**Method of Instruction:**

The course will be conducted through lectures and class discussions. The students are expected to contribute to the discussions, as it will strongly affect their end-of-term evaluation.

**Requirements:**

The students are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials. They should always have a copy of the text with them. Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1.

**Assessment:**

<b>Mid-term Examination:</b>	40%
<b>Class participation, assignments and quizzes:</b>	10%
<b>Final Exam:</b>	50%

In the grading of the exams up to 25% of the total mark will be taken off for the grammatical and writing mistakes. Also, students who get less than 50/100 in the final exam will automatically fail the course no matter how high their midterm results are.

Good luck! ☺