

HL 2024: Approaches to Literature
Instructor: Dr Wernmei Yong Ade
Semester 2: 2015-2016

The principle objective of this module is to develop a greater self-awareness in the understanding of the reading process and of critical practice. The course introduces students to some of the conceptual aspects which are central to the study of English Literature. By focusing on a specific theoretical context each week, the module aims to enable students to become fluent and confident critical readers of literature, as well as to develop an awareness of the environments in which texts are produced.

Core Texts:

NB: Students must purchase the following texts

Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*, 3rd edition, Manchester University Press.

John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, Vintage

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*, Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*, Random House

For Further Reading:

Steven Lynn, *Texts and Contexts: Writing About Literature with Critical Theory*, 6th edition, Prentice Hall

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, 3rd edition, University of Minnesota Press, 2008

Proposed Course Schedule:

| Week | Topic |
|------|--|
| 1 | Introduction: Liberal Humanism |
| 2 | New Criticism and Formalist Criticism |
| 3 | Narrative and Narratology |
| 4 | Reader Response |
| 5 | Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Criticism |
| 6 | Postmodern Criticism |
| 7 | Marxist Criticism |
| 8 | Recess Week |
| 9 | Psychoanalytic Criticism |
| 10 | New Historicism and Cultural Materialism |
| 11 | Feminist Criticism, Gender and Sexuality |
| 12 | Postcolonial Criticism |
| 13 | Overview |

Method of instruction:

Weekly 2-hour lecture
Weekly 1-hour tutorial

Mode of Assessment:

Mid-term 1,200 – 1,500 word essay: 20%
End-term 1,800 - 2,000 word essay: 30%
Exam: 50%

Suggested Secondary Reading:

(You are encouraged to explore and supplement the readings offered in the course reader with your own. You are however not confined to this list, nor are you required to read everything on this list. The following books are available in the library.)

Introductions to Literary Criticism and Theory

Belsey, Catherine. *Critical Practice*, 2nd edition (London: Routledge, 2002)
Bennett, Andrew and Royle, Nicholas. *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*, 4th edition (London: Longman, 2009)
Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2000)
Webster, Roger. *Studying Literary Theory: An Introduction* (USA: Bloomsbury, 2009)

Literary, Critical and Theoretical Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias

Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (Boston: Thomson-Wadsworth, 2005)
Baldick, Chris. *The Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms* (Oxford: OUP, 2004)
Gray, Martin. *Dictionary of Literary Terms* (London: York UP, 1992)
Malpas, Simon and Wake, Paul. *The Routledge Companion to Critical Theory* (London: Routledge, 2006)
Waugh, Patricia. *Literary Theory and Criticism* (Oxford: OUP, 2006)

Anthologies

Rivkin, Julie and Ryan, Michael ed. *Literary Theory: An Anthology* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)
Leitch, Vincent B. ed. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (New York: WW Norton, 2001)