

**HL 2024: Approaches to Literature**  
**Instructor: Dr Wernmei Yong Ade**  
**Semester I: AY 2017-2018**

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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*. **To be provided by lecturer.**

**For Further Reading:**

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

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	Postmodernism
7	New Historicism and Cultural Materialism
8	Recess Week
9	Psychoanalytic Criticism
10	Marxist Criticism
11	Feminist Criticism
12	Gender and Sexuality
13	Postcolonial Criticism
14	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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (London: Routledge, 2002)

Bennett, Andrew and Royle, Nicholas. *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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)