

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

This core literary theory module aims to develop a greater self-awareness in the understanding of the reading process and of critical practice. The course introduces fundamental theoretical and critical concepts central to the study of English Literature. By focusing on a specific theoretical context each week, the module aims to develop fluency and confidence towards being critical readers of literature, as well as to develop and awareness of the environments in which literary texts are produced.

**Core Texts:**

Students need to obtain the following texts, unless otherwise stated:

- 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.**
- Ann Sexton, *Transformations*, **To be provided by lecturer.**

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Topic	Text
One	Introduction: Liberal Humanism	Peter Barry, "Liberal Humanism"  <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>
Two	New Criticism and Formalist Criticism	Donald E. Hall, "The New Criticism and Formalist Analysis" Peter Barry, "Stylistics"  <i>Transformations</i> <i>The God of Small Things</i>
Three	Narrative and Narratology	Peter Barry, "Narratology"  <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> <i>The God of Small Things</i>

Four	Reader Response	Donald E. Hall, "Reader-Response Analysis" Jane P. Tompkins, "An Introduction to Reader-Response Criticism"  <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>
Five	Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Criticism	Peter Barry, "Structuralism", "Post-structuralism and Deconstruction"  <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>
Six	Postmodernism	Peter Barry, "Postmodernism"  <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>
Seven	New Historicism and Cultural Materialism	Peter Barry, "New Historicism and Cultural Materialism"  <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>
<b>Eight</b>	<b>Recess Week</b>	
Nine	Psychoanalytic Criticism	Peter Barry, "Psychoanalytic Criticism"  <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>
Ten	Marxist Criticism	Peter Barry, "Marxist Criticism"  <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>
Eleven	Feminist Criticism	Peter Barry, "Feminist Criticism"  <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> <i>Transformations</i> <i>The God of Small Things</i>
Twelve	Gender and Sexuality	Peter Barry, "Lesbian/ gay Criticism"  <i>The God of Small Things</i>

		<i>Transformations</i> <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> <i>The French Liutenant's</i> <i>Woman</i>
Thirteen	Postcolonial Criticism Overview/ Exam Briefing	Peter Barry, "Postcolonial Criticism"  <i>Oroonoko</i> <i>The God of Small Things</i>

**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**

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, University of Minnesota Press, 2008  
Belsey, Catherine. *Critical Practice*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (London: Routledge, 2002)  
Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Routledge, 2016.  
Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2000)  
Webster, Roger. *Studying Literary Theory: An Introduction* (USA: Bloomsbury, 2009)  
Lois Tyson, *Using Critical Theory: how to read and write about literature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Routledge, 2011.

**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)

Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin eds., *Critical Terms for Literary Study*, University of Chicago Press, 1995.