

HL 2024: Approaches to Literature
Instructor: Dr Wernmei Yong Ade
Semester I: AY 2020-2021

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*
- John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
- Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*
- Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*. **(To be provided by lecturer)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST TO READ ALL PRIMARY TEXTS (EXCEPT *OROONOKO*) PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEMESTER.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Text
One August 10	PUBLIC HOLIDAY (NATIONAL DAY)	
Two August 17	Introduction: Liberal Humanism	Peter Barry, "Liberal Humanism"
Three August 24	New Criticism and Formalist Criticism	Donald E. Hall, "The New Criticism and Formalist Analysis" Peter Barry, "Stylistics"
Four August 31	Reader Response	Donald E. Hall, "Reader-Response Analysis" Jane P. Tompkins, "An Introduction to Reader-Response Criticism"

Five September 7	Narrative and Narratology	Peter Barry, "Narratology"
Six September 14	Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Criticism	Peter Barry, "Structuralism", "Post-structuralism and Deconstruction"
Seven September 21	Postmodernism	Peter Barry, "Postmodernism"
Eight September 28	RECESS WEEK	
Nine October 5	New Historicism and Cultural Materialism	Peter Barry, "New Historicism and Cultural Materialism"
Ten October 12	Psychoanalytic Criticism	Peter Barry, "Psychoanalytic Criticism"
Eleven October 19	Marxist Criticism	Peter Barry, "Marxist Criticism"
Twelve October 26	Feminist Criticism	Peter Barry, "Feminist Criticism"
Thirteen November 4	Gender and Sexuality	Peter Barry, "Lesbian/ gay Criticism"
Fourteen November 11	Postcolonial Criticism	Peter Barry, "Postcolonial Criticism"

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%
Take home online administered test I: 25%
Take home online administered test II: 25%

Important Dates:

Mid-term essay: due end of week 7
End-term essay: due end of week 14
Take home online administered test I: week 11
Take home online administered test II: week 17

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*, 3rd edition, University of Minnesota Press, 2008
Belsey, Catherine. *Critical Practice*, 2nd edition (London: Routledge, 2002)
Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*, 5th 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*, 2nd 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.