



Course Specification

— (Bachelor)

Course Title: Principles of Literary Criticism

Course Code: ENGL 221

Program: B.A in English Language and Literature

Department: English Department

College: College of Education

Institution: Majmaah University

Version: TP-153/ 2023

Last Revision Date: *Pick Revision Date.*



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A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: (3)

2. Course type

A. University College Department Track Others
B. Required Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: (5th Level/ Third Year)

4. Course general Description:

This course aims to introduce students to the main ideas, concepts, principles and methods of literary criticism. It first surveys the history of literary criticism's movements and approaches since the Greeks and Romans up to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The most prominent figures and the seminal works of criticism across this long period will be briefly surveyed. (Plato, The Republic), Aristotle (Poetics), Horace, Longinus, Sidney, Dryden, Pope, Samuel Johnson, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Matthew Arnold, Jakobson, Bakhtin, C. Brooks, etc.). The course discusses the interrelation between the world, author, text and reader as the four variables of literature and literary criticism. It then explores and discusses the position of each critical approach regarding these variables.

Based on the idea that literary criticism has always been closely related to literary practice and that literary criticism develops in connection to literary writing, shapes it and is in turn shaped by it, the historical study will be combined with an aesthetical approach that focuses on particular literary movements, concepts and practices. We will particularly study the practice of Romantic writing as a literary trend in relation to Romantic criticism (Wordsworth, Coleridge and Shelley) and Victorian Criticism (Matthew Arnold's Touchstone Method...) in relation to Victorian literary writing.

They are expected to develop their understanding of the theoretical positions of each trend and the entailed critical and analytical methodology.

Students are also expected to reflect on the link between the developments in literary criticism and the wider history of thought (e.g. the contribution of philosophers such as Kant and Hegel may be touched on)

The ultimate aim of the course is to develop the students' analytical and critical competencies in the practice of reading and writing about literary texts.

The teaching methodology of the course will mainly use lecturing, class discussions, seminars, and participation of students with oral presentations. As to evaluation, it will include quizzes, tests, one mid-term exam, written assignments and oral presentations.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

ENGL 211 Introduction to Literature





6. Co-requisites for this course (if any):

None

7. Course Main Objective(s):

- Develop a clear and comprehensive view of the history and progression of literary criticism.
- Have a clear understanding of the major texts in the history of literary criticism.
- Understand the progression and shift in approach from one period of literary criticism to another, differences, and dissimilarities between critics within the same trend.
- Identify in each type of criticism, its basic tenets, key ideas and concepts, principles and methods.
- Recognize the overall cultural and philosophical backgrounds shaping each period of literary criticism.
- Determine the interrelation between literary criticism and literary writing
- See the practical value of literary criticism by reflecting on its applicability to literary texts.
- Think critically about the different critical movements, concepts and methods by evaluating their strengths, their limitations and their applicability to literary texts.
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2. Teaching mode (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	45	100%
2	E-learning		
3	Hybrid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional classroom • E-learning 		
4	Distance learning		

3. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1.	Lectures	45
2.	Laboratory/Studio	
3.	Field	
4.	Tutorial	
5.	Others (specify)	
Total		45





B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding			
1.1	Define, state and discuss the basic concepts, principles, methods and practices in the field of literary criticism and discuss the history of literary criticism.	K1	Conventional instruction methods, brain storming, classroom discussions, elicitation, pair/group work, cooperative learning, tutoring (when necessary), self/ peer correction	Exams (mid/final), quizzes, class participation, research, projects, discussions.
1.2				
...				
2.0	Skills			
2.1	Cognitive: Compare and contrast different literary criticism movements and approaches (may also include reading a literary text employing a certain literary approach or a number of relevant approaches).	S1	Conventional instruction methods, brain storming, classroom discussions, elicitation, pair/group work.	Midterm + Final Exam Assignment research and projects
2.2	Communication: Present information effectively in writing and/or speech	S2	Class discussion, presentation, written assignment.	research, presentations and projects
...				
3.0	Values, autonomy, and responsibility			
3.1	Observe issues of plagiarism in writing research assignments, reports and projects (students can obtain awareness of the complexity of the	V1	Role-play, group discussions/ dialogues Conversations/ argumentations	Research Assignments/ Projects





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	relationship between Intertextuality and Plagiarism, esp. in literary texts and discourses).			
3.2				
...				

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	Course Introduction Literature and literary criticism	3
2.	The origins: Classicism: Plato (<i>Republic</i>) versus Aristotle (<i>Poetics</i>)	9
3.	Classicism: Longinus <i>On the Sublime</i> Horace: <i>The Art of Poetry</i> Quintilian (<i>The Institute of Oratory</i>)	3
4.	Renaissance criticism: Philip Sydney: <i>Defence of Poesie</i>	6
5.	Neo-classical criticism: David Hume <i>Of the Standard of Taste</i> Samuel Johnson, John Dryden <i>an Essay of Dramatic Poesy</i> , Alexander Pope <i>Essay on Criticism/ Essay on Man</i> The Enlightenment: John Locke, David Hume	6
6.	Romantic criticism: Kant: <i>Critique of Judgment</i> Wordsworth and Coleridge: <i>Preface to the Lyrical Ballads</i> Shelley: <i>A Defense of Poetry</i>	6
7.	19 th century criticism: Hegel's (Dialectics) <i>Introduction to the Philosophy of Art</i> Arnold's <i>Function of Criticism (Touchstone Method)</i>	6





8.	A brief touch on early 20 th century criticism: Modernism: T.S..Eliot <i>Tradition and the Individual Talent</i> *(this particular item will be carried on to the second course (Advanced Literary Criticism ENGL 421)).	3
9.	Revisions and Midterm Exams	3
Total		45

D. Students Assessment Activities

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Midterm(s)	9	30%
2.	Assignments and participation	All along	10%
3.	Projects/ papers/ presentations/ research/ quizzes	All along	20%
4.	Final Exam	Week 16	40%

*Assessment Activities (i.e., Written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.).

E. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. References and Learning Resources

Essential References	A History of Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present M. A.R. Habib Blackwell Publishing, 2005. *Notes and teaching materials prepared or collated from different sources.
Supportive References	A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature. Wilfred Guerin Oxford University Press, 2010
Electronic Materials	John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism Online Database www.literariness.org
Other Learning Materials	Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice Charles E Bressler2011 Introduction to Literary Criticism and Theory Bennet & Royle Routledge2014 An Introduction to Literary Criticism. Yashdhara Parsad Centrum Press 2016

2. Required Facilities and equipment





Items	Resources
facilities (Classrooms, laboratories, exhibition rooms, simulation rooms, etc.)	Enough space is available at college for accommodating the students
Technology equipment (projector, smart board, software)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart Boards, digital podiums and Internet facilities are available in the classrooms. Well -equipped language labs are available at the college for students during practical lectures.
Other equipment (depending on the nature of the specialty)	<p>Yet, it should be updated each now and then</p> <p>The university Library needs to include books, references and electronic materials on literature and literary criticism.</p>

F. Assessment of Course Quality

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Students Head of the Department Program Coordinators	Indirect (CES + PES + SES) Direct assessment of course learning outcomes.
Effectiveness of Students assessment	Head of the Department Program coordinators Peer Instructors	<p>-Check the marking of a sample of examination papers either by a resident or visiting faculty member</p> <p>-Arrange with another institution to have two common test items included on an exam and compare marks given.</p> <p>-Double-check papers by a second reader in case of students who believe they are underrated.</p>
Quality of learning resources	Course Coordinator Quality Coordinators Program coordinators	Annual meetings of faculty members to discuss improvement of learning resources.
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Instructors Head of the Department Quality Coordinators Course Coordinator Program Coordinator	Tests -questionnaires - reports (Direct, Indirect)
Other		

Assessors (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify))

Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)





G. Specification Approval

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	Department Board/Council; Academic Board and Committee for Course/Curricula Development
REFERENCE NO.	
DATE	

