**Course Title: Literary Theory**

**Course Code:**

**Course Instructor:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This subject examines the ways in which we read. It introduces some important strategies for engaging with literary texts developed in the twentieth century, paying special attention to all theories and their legacy. The course is organized around specific theoretical paradigms. In general, we will: (1) work through the selected readings in order to see how they construe what literary interpretation is; (2) locate the limits of each particular approach; and (3) trace the emergence of subsequent theoretical paradigms as responses to what came before. This course is **strongly** recommended for literature concentrators, particularly those contemplating or pursuing graduate studies. But anyone interested in aesthetic inquiry, in the psychodynamics of the reading/writing/interpretive process, or in the relationship of artworks to the culture at large (whether textual or visual—from three-dimensional works of art to films) will find the material in this course equally valuable.

Although the readings are challenging, I can promise you that you’ll never look at literary texts in the same way as you once did. Instead, you will become a more attentive and insightful reader.

**Course Outcomes:**

- Identify major theoretical/critical movements and theorists, as well as primary concepts with which they are associated

- Define and apply specific theoretical concepts, theories, and terms to literary and cultural texts

- Use online databases to define key terms and trace implications in source texts;

- Evaluate and analyze strengths and limitations of critical/theoretical arguments

- Examine historical contexts for the development of contemporary theory and criticism

- Strengthen and deepen critical reading, writing, and interpretive practices

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**In this course, students are expected to:**

* Attend all class sessions for requisite number of hours and participate in class activities
* Complete all assignments in time
* Prepare and appear in all announced/ unannounced quizzes
* Respect and benefit from diverse, often opposing, values and opinions
* Make use of the criticism offered by the instructor and peers positively by revising the work
* Make use of library, dictionary, take notes, and raise questions during reading tasks
* Fully participate in class discussions and help foster a discourse community by listening to the peers’ views and ideas as well as articulating their own in an effective manner Pass midterm and final term exam
* Demonstrate the skills and ability to succeed in the next level of the required English courses

**UMT & COURSE POLICIES**

* Late submission of assignments will not be entertained.
* **Academic honesty** should be assumed.
* **Avoid Plagiarism.** All the cases of plagiarism will be referred to controller’s office. Please click the link given below for university policy on plagiarism. (<http://www.uvas.edu.pk/news/HEC_PLIAGERISM_POLICY.pdf>)
* Students who miss more than six lectures will not be allowed to attend the final examination.
* Teacher reserves the right to make new rules and changes to the course, if required.
* Laptops and cell-phones must be switched off during lectures.
* No retake of missed quizzes.

**Reading Suggestions**

* 1. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* Second Edition by Vincent B. Leitch (Editor), William E. Cain (Editor), Laurie A. Finke (Editor), Barbara E. Johnson (Editor), John McGowan (Editor), T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting (Editor), Jeffrey J. Williams (Editor)
  2. *Literary Theory: An Anthology* (Blackwell Anthologies) Revised Edition

by Julie Rivkin (Editor), Michael Ryan (Editor)

* 1. *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature* 4th Edition

by Wilfred L. Guerin (Author), Earle Labor (Author), Lee Morgan (Author), Jeanne C. Reesman (Author), John R. Willingham (Author), John Willingham (Author)

* 1. [*Literary Theory: An Introduction*](https://books.google.com.pk/books?id=f7Ey04hdF3sC&printsec=frontcover&dq=best+books+for+literary+theory&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjJ-qagsuncAhXByIUKHZSfBhEQ6AEIKTAB)by Terry Eagleton
  2. *Literary Theory: The Basics* By Hans Bertens
  3. *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory* By Andrew Bennett, Nicholas Royle
  4. *Marxism and Literary Criticism* By Terry Eagleton
  5. *Key Terms in Literary Theory* By Mary Klages

**Assessment Criteria**

**Passing Percentage 50%**

Quizzes 10%

Assignments 10%

Presentation 10%

Attendance/ Class Participation 05%

Mid Term 30%

Final Exam 35%

**Course Schedule**

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|  | **Topics** |
| Week 1 | Introduction of Course Outline.  What is Literary Theory?  **Assignment 1** |
| Week 2 | 1 Liberal Humanism  (read out from Peter Barry’s book. Recommend E M Forster’s ‘Howards End’) |
| Week 3 | 2. Formalism and Early structuralism.  (read from Hans Bertens. Talk about ‘Oulipo’ and recommend ‘A Void’ by Georges Perec’ and Balzac’s story ‘Sarrasine’.)  **Quiz 1** |
| Week 4 | 3. Post structuralism and Deconstruction.  (read from Bertens. Examples can include any of Edgar Allen Poe’s short stories) **Assignment 2** |
| Week 5 | 4. Modernism and Postmodernism.  (read from Bertens and Barry both. You have read plenty of these texts, so any examples will do)  **Quiz 2** |
| Week 6 | 5. Psychoanalysis-Freud and Lacan  (read from Bertens and Barry both. Read a few excerpts from Freud’s case study of Hamlet) |
| Week 7 | 6. Feminism  **Quiz 3** |
| Week 8 | 7.Queer Study  Revision for Midterm Exam **Assignment 3** |
| Week 9 | Revision and Mid Term |
| Week 10 | 8. Gender Study **Assignment 4**  **Presentations** |
| Week11 | 9.New Historicism |
| Week 12 | 10. Cultural Materialism  **Quiz 4** |
| Week 13 | 11.Deconstrution  **Quiz 5** |
| Week 14 | 12. Post Colonialism **Quiz-6 and Assignment-6**  Formal Presentations |
| Week 15 | Review  Final Examination |