

Module Specification: EL350 (Introduction to Literary Theory)

1. Factual information			
Module title	Introduction to Literary Theory	Level	4
Module Code	EL350		
Module tutor	Dalia Saad, Course Chair	Credit value	4
Module type	Elective	Notional learning hours	2

2. Rationale for the module and its links with other modules
<p>This module is designed for English language and literature students. It introduces the student to the study of literature – literary analysis, interpretation and contextual factors. Students will focus on the major literary theories such as Marxism, Feminism, New Criticism, Structuralism, and Postcolonial Criticism. This module prepares students to OU based courses by giving them the tools they need to read, understand and interpret literary texts in a sophisticated manner.</p>

3. Aims of the module
<p>Literary theory is an integral part of studying literature. This module introduces English language and literature students to basic literary concepts and theoretical schools covering both the formal and the non- formal approaches to analysing literary texts. The course allows students of ELL program to identify and differentiate between current prominent literary schools and concepts. The course presents briefly major critical approaches to literary works including New Criticism, Structuralism, Marxism, psychoanalytical-criticism, feminism and postcolonial criticism among others. It illuminates complex critical concepts by briefly highlighting their principles, seminal works and main critics. The course also offers discussions of how specific critical theories allow different readings and interpretations of literary works.</p>

4. Pre-requisite modules or specified entry requirements
EL121 Literary Appreciation and Critique

5. Intended learning outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to show:</i></p> <p>A1. Knowledge of the complexity and intricacies of literary theories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-class preparation and reading of assigned articles - In-class discussion of critical concepts

A. Knowledge and understanding	Learning and teaching strategy
<p>A2. Understanding of the characteristics of each of the literary schools discussed.</p> <p>A3. Understanding of the possible interpretations of literary texts offered by different schools</p> <p>A4: knowledge of the basic tenets of critical schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further analysis of sample literary extracts using a particular theoretical approach. - Post-reading activities to allow students to deepen and expand their understanding - Researching some relevant material through the e-library, the internet, etc - Giving short presentations expressing their views on the work studied. - Taking a mid-term exam (MTA) to show their knowledge and understanding of the key concepts discussed in the course. - Writing essays (TMAs) to engage further with the relevant argument, and develop a synthesis of the concepts, and theories, discussed in the course. <p>Students will be assessed through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA • Midterm assessment • Final exam

B. Cognitive skills	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>B1: Evaluate theoretical and analytical approaches.</p> <p>B2: Compare and contrast the different interpretations of literary texts based on specific theoretical approaches.</p> <p>B3: Use appropriate critical and literary terminology to discuss specific theories and concepts.</p> <p>B4: Synthesize information from different sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In class Discussion - Presentations - Group and peer work - Lecturing - Reading samples of different interpretations of literary works <p>Students will be assessed through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA • Midterm assessment • Final exam

C. Practical and professional skills	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>C1: Analyze texts from the perspective of literary theories.</p> <p>C2: Draw conclusion based on solid evidence.</p> <p>C3: Present an argument supported by evidence from sources.</p> <p>C4: Use appropriate vocabulary in analysis of texts set in English literature.</p>	<p>- In Class discussions - Presentations - Group and peer work</p> <p>Students will be assessed through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA • Midterm assessment • Final exam

D Key transferable skills	Learning and teaching strategy
<p><i>At the end of the module, learners will be expected to:</i></p> <p>D1: Use the computer to enhance learning skills.</p> <p>D2: Communicate effectively in English.</p> <p>D3: Write essays following academic conventions.</p>	<p>In Class discussions Presentations Group and peer work</p> <p>Students will be assessed through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tutorial sessions • TMA • Midterm assessment • Final exam

6. Indicative content.
<p>The module will cover the following::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic discussion of “What is literary theory?” • Marxist Criticism: Marxism and literature (Marx, Lukacs/ commodification and value theory), the role of ideology (Althusseur) • Feminist criticism and gender studies: a brief survey of first, second and third wave feminism and the divergent interests of different feminists. Elaine Showalter’s digging up the literary tradition of women writers; Toril Moi’s focus on the cross interaction between class and gender; Judith Butler’s work on performativity. Alluding to African American criticism to introduce students to how theory is affected by race as well as gender. • Psychoanalytic Criticism: basic premises of Freud, Lacan and Jung’s arguments emphasizing how to read the literary text from a psychoanalytic perspective. • New Criticism: The formal approach to literary text with special emphasis on the close reading method and reference to I.A. Richards and Brooks.

6. Indicative content.

- Structuralism and Post-structuralism: brief discussion of the structure of the literary genres and of literary interpretations giving special attention to narratology and semiotics.
- Postcolonial Criticism: postcolonial literature, the issues of identity and exile, (Edward Said, Spivak and Homi Bahbha)

7. Assessment strategy, assessment methods and their relative weightings

EL350 has ONE tutor marked assignment (**TMA**), ONE Mid-Term Assessment (**MTA**) and ONE 3-hour **FINAL EXAM** at the end of the module.

- **TMA** (related to Blocks that the students already covered and representing 20 per cent of the overall continuous assessment score [OCAS])
- **One 2- hour Mid-Term Assessment (MTA)**
- **One 3-hour FINAL EXAM** at the end of the module.
- The balance between components of assessment is shown in the following table:

Components	Form of Assessment & Marks		%
CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT	TMA	20	50%
	MTA	30	
FINAL ASSESSMENT	Final Exam	50	50%
GRAND TOTAL		100	100%

8. Mapping of assessment tasks to learning outcomes

Assessment tasks	Learning outcomes															
	A1	A2	A3	A4		B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3
Assignments (TMA)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Midterm assessment	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Final exam	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

9. Teaching staff associated with the module (Potential Tutors)		
Tutor's name and contact details	Contact details	Contact hours
Dalia Saad, Course Chair	dalia.saad@aou.edu.eg	
Nedal Al-Mousa	n_almosa@aou.edu.jo	
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10. Key reading list				
Author	Year	Title	Publisher -ISBN	Location
Lois Tyson	2006	Critical Theory Today: A User friendly Guide	Routledge	New York and London
Peter Barry	2002	Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory (2 nd Edition)	ISBN 0719062683	

11. Other indicative text (e.g. websites)
<p>Books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson & Peter Brooker. <i>A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory</i> (5th edition). Pearson and Longman • Culler, Jonathan. <i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. • During, Simon. Ed. <i>The Cultural Studies Reader</i>. London: Routledge, 1999.

- Terry Eagleton. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University press 1983
- Lentricchia, Frank. *After the New Criticism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.
- Moore-Gilbert, Bart, Stanton, Gareth, and Maley, Willy. Eds. *Postcolonial Criticism*. New York: Addison, Wesley, Longman, 1997.
- Rice, Philip and Waugh, Patricia. Eds. *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*. 4th edition.
- Richter, David H. Ed. *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends*. 2nd Ed. Bedford Books: Boston, 1998.
- Rivkin, Julie and Ryan, Michael. Eds. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 1998

General Theory Websites:

- **The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**
- **Literary Theory and Schools of Criticism at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/722/01/>**
- **Introduction to Modern Literary Theory at <http://www.kristisiegel.com/theory.htm>**
- **General Theory Resources at <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2718>**

Websites on Psychoanalytic and Archetypal Criticism:

["Definition of Psychoanalytic Criticism" from virtualLit \(Bedford-St.Martin's resource\)](#)

["Freudian, Lacanian and Object Relations Theory" - Timothy R. Quigley](#)

["Introduction to Psychoanalysis" by Dr. Dino Felluga](#)

["The Mind and the Book: A Long Look at Psychoanalytic Criticism" by Norman N. Holland](#)

["Psychoanalysis and Sigmund Freud" by Dr. Mary Klages \(University of Colorado at Boulder\)](#)

["Jacques Lacan" by Dr. Mary Klages \(University of Colorado at Boulder\)](#)

["Archetypal Criticism" from the Literary Encyclopedia](#)

["Mythological and Archetypal Approaches" \(from Guerin et al - see *General Resources* below\)](#)

[Johns Hopkins' Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism: Archetypal Theory and Criticism](#)

["Carl Jung" - Wikipedia](#)

["Handout on Carl Gustav Jung" - Dr. Victor Daniels \(Psychology Dept. - Sonoma University\)](#)

Websites For Marxism:

["Definition of Marxist Criticism" - virtualLit \(Bedford-St. Martin's resource\)](#)

["Marxism" - Wikipedia Encyclopedia](#)

[Marxist Theory and Criticism - from the Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Criticism](#)

["Marxism and Ideology" by Dr. Mary Klages - University of Colorado at Boulder](#)

Websites for Feminist criticism :

<https://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/women.html>

Course chair will be providing supplementary material on weekly basis .