

**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SYLLABUS**

**Title of the Course:** IED 441 (01) Literary Theory and Criticism

**Instructor:** Prof Dr. Huriye Reis

**Year and Term:** 2014-2015 Autumn

**Class Hours: Thursday:** 09:00- 11:50 ZNG

**Term dates:** 25 September-25 December 2014

**e-mail:**huriye@hacettepe.edu.tr

**I.Aim and Contents:** This course covers the development of western literary criticism from its beginnings in the classical antiquity to the late nineteenth century. It focuses on Plato, Aristotle, Horace, medieval and Renaissance criticism, Neo-classical literary theory, Romanticism and the Victorian literary theory and criticism. The course aims to introduce the students to the main issues and principles of literary criticism and theory in a historical context to provide awareness and appreciation of the significance of literary theory and criticism for the development and use of literature.

**II.Course Outline:**

**Week I: (25 September)** Introduction to the course. The meaning, significance and role of literary theory and criticism.

**Week II:** Plato's views on poetry and criticism. From *Ion* and *the Republic*, Books 3,5,10.

**Week III:** Plato continued, Aristotle's *Poetics*

**Week IV:** Aristotle's *Poetics*

**Week V:** Aristotle's *Poetics*, Horace and *Ars Poetica*

**Week VI:** Horace and *Ars Poetica*

**Week VII:** Renaissance Literary theory and Criticism. Renaissance interpretation of Aristotle and Horace, Sidney, from *An Apology For Poetry*,

**Week VIII:** MIDTERM I (13 November 2014 Thursday).

**Week IX:** Neo-classical literary theory and criticism, Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy*

**Week X:** Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*

**Week XI:** Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*

**Week XII:** Samuel Johnson, "Preface to Shakespeare",

**Week XIII:** Midterm II. (18 December 2014). Romanticism and the Romantic Theories of Literature,

Wordsworth, from Preface to *the Lyrical Ballads*,

**Week XIV:** Coleridge, from *Biographia Literaria*

Mathew Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time"

**III.Textbook:**

- *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Vol. I and II,

- Plato's *Republic*
- Aristotle's *Poetics*
- Horace's *Ars Poetica*

**IV: Method of Instruction:** There will be introductory lectures on the historical and philosophical background of the periods of literary criticism and theory the course covers. The course will mainly be conducted through textual analysis and critical reading of the texts of literary criticism and theory. Students should read the course material as they are expected to contribute to the presentation and discussion of the texts in the class.

**V. Requirements:** Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 (eleven) hours of absence will result in F1. Students should obtain and read the texts assigned for the class discussions.

**VI. Assessment:** In the grading of examination papers up to 25 % of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. Assessment will be made on one/two mid-term examination (s). Midterm II is optional, students should however sign up to take the exam. **The exam (s) will carry 50 % of the total grade. The final examination will carry the remaining 50 %.** Students should demonstrate that they have read the relevant secondary material and have done independent research. Students should present their arguments clearly and should display the ability to think independently. They should also demonstrate a good knowledge of the critics and literary theorists and their theories that the course covers.

## VII. Relevant reading

### Literary Theory and Criticism (Classical to the 19th century)

- Abbenes, J. G. J. *Greek literary theory after Aristotle*. VU University Press Amsterdam 1995.
- Atkins, J. W. H. *English literary criticism: the medieval phase*. P. Smith Gloucester, Mas 1961.
- Baldick, Chris. *Criticism and literary theory 1890 to the present* Longman, 1996.
- Barry, Peter, *Beginning theory : an introduction to literary and cultural theory* Manchester University Press, 1995.
- Blamires, Harry. *A history of literary criticism*. Macmillan, 1991.
- Bloom, Harold. *The Art of the critic : literary theory and criticism from the Greeks to..* Chelsea House, 1985.
- Matz, Robert. *Defending literature in early modern England : Renaissance literary theory*. Cambridge University Press Cambridge ; 2000
- Vickers, Brian. *English Renaissance literary criticism* Clarendon Press, 1999.

#### Websites

1. [http://au.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761565436/Literary\\_Criticism.html#endads](http://au.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761565436/Literary_Criticism.html#endads) (brief history of literary theory and criticism. Gives an outline, highlights the main concerns and issues of each period and relevant authors)
2. <http://www.luminarium.org/lumina.htm>