

Syllabus

Faculty Arts and Sciences
Department English Language and Literature
Semester First Semester
Academic Year 2019 -2020

Course Name Contemporary Literary Criticism and Modern Literary Theory
Course Number 010201732

Each student shall receive a copy of the syllabus to be kept for future reference.

1. Instructor Information

1. Instructor: Dr. Mohammed Mahammed
2. Office: B316
3. Office Telephone: -----
4. Email: mmahameed@meu.edu.jo
5. Office Hours: Sat- 8-9.30---- 12-13, Sun, Tues 8-9.30, Monday 2-4, Wed 8-11.

2. Course Details

1. Meeting Times: 9.00-12.00
2. Location: B 015
3. Course Laboratory (if any):

3. Sources and References

1. Required Readings: Parker, Robert Dale. (2008). *Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Additional Readings: Buchbinder, David. (1993). *Contemporary Literary Theory*. Melbourne: MacMillan.
3. Selden, Raman (1989). *Practicing Theory and Reading Literature*, New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf.
4. Tyson Lois. (1999). *Critical Theory Today*. New York & London: Garland Publishing.

4. Course Description

This course approaches literature through contemporary criticism and literary theory. Literary schools and theories such as structuralism, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism,



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feminism, new historicism, cultural studies, deconstruction, modernity, and post modernity will be generally studies in this course. Selected works pertinent to these theories will be the core material for this course.

5. Aims and objectives:

This course introduces students to modern and contemporary approaches to literature. Students are expected to understand the content and ideas of each and every critical approach selected for study. A good grasp of recent developments in modernist and contemporary literary theory and literary criticism is a cherished objective. Students are expected to deepen their understanding of the subject and to be able to comprehend and compare the different ideas underlining these theories. Additionally, there will be reference to some relevant literary works to demonstrate how these theories can be applicable in critical analysis and academic writing.

Purpose: This course will enable participants to:

- a. acquire an overview and a detailed knowledge of three selected novels that exemplify the diversity of contemporary British and American fiction,
- b. develop their skills in analyzing novels drawing upon different literary theories.
- C. discuss the novels comparatively and in context of the ongoing debate about great British and American novels.

6. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

CLO	Tests			Assignments					Quizzes *	
	1	2	FINAL	1	2	3	4	5	1	2
1	√		√			√				
2	√		√	√						
3	√		√		√	√				
4			√				√			
5			√					√		

7. Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs):



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Upon completion of the course, the students are expected to be able to:

1. Know the major modernist and contemporary English and American literary theories and their representative works.
2. Understand and discuss major critical concepts and literary movements.
3. Identify the various critical approaches and innovative departures of modernist and postmodernist literary theory.
4. develop the ability to link various critical theories and main trends in modern literary theory, with a view to recognizing a sense of continuity and development.
5. Recognize the intrinsic features and the general significance of different types of modern and contemporary literary theory and literary criticism.

8. Teaching Methods

The methods of instruction may include, but are not limited to :

1. Lectures
2. Discussion and problem solving
3. Individual assignments
4. Lab practice
5. Any active learning method such as: small group.

#	Description	Weight	Description
1.	Exams	30	
2.	Final Exam	50	
3.	Assignments	10	
4.	Participation	10	
Total			

9. Course Schedule:

Wk No.	Topic	Assignments/ date	Reference in the textbook	CLO
1	Introduction and Orientation			
2	New Criticism		Chapter 2: 9-20	1-5
3.	New Criticism		Chapter 2: 20- 39	1-5
4.	Structuralism		Chapter 3: 40- 61	1-5
5	Structuralism		Chapter 3: 61-76	1-5
6	Deconstruction		Chapter 4: 77-89	1-5
7	Deconstruction		Chapter 4: 89-100	1-5
8	Psychoanalysis		Chapter 5: 101-112	1-5
9	Psychoanalysis		Chapter 5: 112-135	1-5
10	MIDTERM	30%		
11	Feminism		Chapter 6: 136-149	1-5

12	Feminism		Chapter 6: 149-161	1-5
13	Historicism, Cultural Studies		Chapter 9: 218-239	1-5
14	Postcolonial and Race Studies		Chapter 10: 240-277	1-5
15	Revision			
16	Final Exam	50%		

10. Course Policies

Course Policies

Should be explained to students at the first meeting:

1. **Class Attendance:**

- a. Students must attend all classes of this course.
- b. Any student with absence of 15% of the classes of any course, will be illegible to sit for the final exam and will be given the university zero (35%) in this course.
- c. In the case (b) above, if a student submits an official sick report authenticated by university clinic or an accepted excuse by the Dean of his/her faculty, the student will be considered as withdrawn from the course, and a "W" will be shown in the transcript for this course.

2. **Tardy:** Students are not allowed to come late to classes. Any student coming late will not be allowed to attend the class and he/she will be marked absent.



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3. **Exams:**
 - Failure in attending a course exam other than the final exam, will result in zero mark unless the student provides an official acceptable excuse to the instructor who approves a make-up exam.
 - Failure in attending the final exam will result in zero mark unless the student presents an official acceptable excuse to the Dean of his/her faculty who approves an incomplete exam, normally scheduled to be conducted during the first two weeks of the successive semester.
4. **Assignments & Projects:** Assignments and projects should be submitted to the instructor on the due date. Zero mark will be given for late submissions unless the student has an acceptable excuse approved by the instructor of the course.
5. **Exam Attendance/Punctuality:**
 - A student who is late more than 10 minutes will not be permitted to sit the exam (first, second or mid exams).
 - A student who is late more than 30 minutes will not be permitted to sit to final exam, and no student will be permitted to leave the exam center before the elapse of 30 minutes.
6. **Cheating:** Cheating is an attempt to gain marks dishonestly and includes; but not limited to:
 - Copying from another student's work.
 - Using materials not authorized by the institute.
 - Collaborating with another student during a test, without permission.
 - Knowingly using, buying, selling, or stealing the contents of a test.
 - Plagiarism which means presenting another person's work or ideas as one's own, without attribution.
 - Using any media (including mobiles) during the exam.
7. **Penalty for Cheating:** The minimum penalty for cheating is an automatic Zero for the test or assignment leading to a possible "F" for the course. The exam invigilator will produce a report on the case to the examination committee chairman. The report will be kept in the student file. The student may remain seated in the exam center, but in case that causes a disturbance to other students, the student will be expelled out of the exam center if approved by the examination committee chairman. A second offense will result in the immediate suspension of the student for the remainder of the current semester. A copy of the decision will be kept in the student file.

8. Mobiles: Mobile phones should be kept turned off or silent while in class. Usage of mobile phones is not allowed in classes in any form (talking and/or texting).



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