**Literary Criticism**

**Fourth Stage – First/ Semester**

**Asst. Lect. Meram Salim Shekh Mohamad**

**Academic Year: 2022-2023**

**Course Book**

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| **S. No.** | **Information** | **Details** |
|  | **Course Name** | Literary Criticism I |
|  | **Course Code** | ENG412FRE |
|  | **Lecturer In-charge** | Meram Salim |
|  | **College/Department** | College of Education and Languages/ Department of English |
|  | **Contact Information** | [meram.salim@lfu.edu.krd](mailto:meram.salim@lfu.edu.krd) |
|  | **Time (in hours) per Week** | 6 |
|  | **Office Hours** | Sunday (09:00am)- (11:00) |
|  | **Teacher’s Academic Profile** | <https://staff.lfu.edu.krd/faculty/meram.salim> |
|  | **Academic Title** | Assistant Lecturer |
|  | **Keywords** | * Literature, Criticism, Theory, Scholars, Literary. |
|  | **Course Overview:**  This semester course on literary criticism will explore the evolution of critical theories and approaches from ancient Greece to contemporary times. The primary text for study will be “Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice” by Charles Bressler, which provides a comprehensive overview of various critical perspectives.  Here is a general outline of the course, divided into key periods and thinkers:   1. Introduction to Literary Criticism   • Understanding the role of literary criticism in analyzing and interpreting texts  • Overview of key concepts and terminology in literary criticism   1. Classical Period: Plato and Aristotle   • Examination of Plato’s views on poetry and mimesis in “The Republic” and “Ion”  • Aristotle’s “Poetics” and his theories on tragedy, catharsis, and imitation    Throughout the course, students will engage in close reading of literary texts, analyze critical essays, and develop their own critical perspectives. The aim is to provide a solid foundation in literary criticism while encouraging critical thinking and application of theories to diverse literary works. | |

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| **12.** | **Aims & Objective:**   * To enable the students analyze texts rationally. * To enable the students interpret and evaluate literary texts based on theories and ideologies. * To enable the students increase their sense of understanding a text and their judgment. * To enable the students evaluate a context from different points of view. |
| **13.** | **Course Requirement:**  1. Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions, group activities, and workshops are essential for successful completion of the course. Engage in thoughtful and respectful discussions, ask questions, and contribute to the exploration of critical theories.  2. Readings: Complete the assigned readings from the textbook, “Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice” by Charles Bressler, as well as additional primary texts and critical essays provided throughout the semester. Actively engage with the material and come prepared to discuss and analyze the readings in class.  3. Writing Assignments: Complete writing assignments that demonstrate comprehension of critical theories and the ability to apply them to literary texts. These assignments may include critical analyses, essays, or response papers.  5. Examinations and Quizzes: Take part in periodic examinations or quizzes to assess understanding of the material covered in class. These assessments may include multiple-choice questions, short answer responses, or essay questions.  6. Group Work: Engage in collaborative group projects or presentations that explore specific critical theories or themes. These activities will foster teamwork, critical thinking, and presentation skills.  7. Final Exam: Prepare for and complete a comprehensive final exam that assesses understanding of the entire course material, including key theories, critical perspectives, and their application to literary texts. |
| **14.** | **Teaching and Learning Method:** |
| **15.** | **Assessment Scheme:**   * 25 % Mid-term Examination * 15 % Assignments and Quizzes * 60 % Final Examination |
| **16.** | **Students Learning Outcome:**  1. Knowledge of Literary Criticism: By the end of the course, students should have a solid understanding of the key theories, concepts, and approaches within the field of literary criticism. They will be familiar with the works of influential critics and thinkers from different time periods and be able to identify and explain the main ideas and arguments associated with various critical perspectives.  2. Critical Analysis Skills: Students will develop the ability to critically analyze literary texts using different theoretical frameworks. They will learn to identify and evaluate elements such as theme, structure, style, and symbolism, and examine how these elements contribute to the overall meaning and interpretation of a work. They will demonstrate an enhanced capacity to articulate and support their own interpretations and arguments.  3. Application of Theory to Practice: Students will learn to apply various critical theories and perspectives to literary texts. They will understand how different theories provide different lenses through which literature can be analyzed and interpreted. Through assignments and class discussions, students will practice applying these theories to specific texts, gaining proficiency in identifying and analyzing literary elements through the lens of a chosen theoretical framework.  4. Research and Presentation Skills: Through the research project and group work, students will enhance their research and presentation skills. They will learn how to gather relevant sources, critically evaluate and synthesize information, and present their findings in a coherent and engaging manner. They will also develop skills in collaborating with peers and effectively communicating their ideas to others.  5. Critical Thinking and Reflection: The course will foster critical thinking skills as students engage in discussions, debates, and written assignments. They will learn to question assumptions, analyze arguments, and evaluate different perspectives. Additionally, students will reflect on their own positionality and biases, considering how these factors influence their interpretation and analysis of literary works. They will develop a heightened awareness of the social, cultural, and historical contexts that shape both literature and criticism. |
| **17.** | **Course Reading List and References**   * The following is a suggested reading list for the course In addition to the textbook “Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice” by Charles Bressler, this list includes primary texts, critical essays, and other relevant works that exemplify different critical theories and perspectives:   1. Plato • “The Republic” • “Ion”  2. Aristotle • “Poetics”  3. Neoclassical and Enlightenment Criticism • John Dryden’s critical essays • Alexander Pope’s “An Essay on Criticism”  4. Romanticism • William Wordsworth’s prefaces and critical writings • Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “Biographia Literaria”  5. Formalist Criticism • Victor Shklovsky’s “Art as Technique” • Cleanth Brooks’ “The Formalist Critics”  6. Modernist Criticism • T.S. Eliot’s “Tradition and the Individual Talent” • Virginia Woolf’s “Modern Fiction”  7. Postmodern Criticism • Jacques Derrida’s “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences” • Michel Foucault’s “What Is an Author?”  Note: The reading list can be further expanded or modified based on the instructor’s preferences and the duration of the course. It is advisable to refer to the course syllabus or consult with the instructor for the final reading list and any additional readings or resources they may recommend. |
| **18.** | **Course Content** |

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| **S. No.** | **Lecture Week** | **No. of Hours** | **Topics** |
| 1. | Week 1 | 2 | Defining Criticism, Theory, and Literature |
| 2. | Week2 | 2 | Mikhail Bakhtin- Dialogic Hetroglossia |
| 3. | Week3 | 2 | Hermeneutics |
| 4. | Week4 | 2 | Theoretical and Practical Criticism |

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| 5. | Week5 | 2 | -Historical Survey of Literary Criticism  -Plato |
| 6. | Week6 | 2 | Aristotle |
| 7. | Week7 | 2 | Student’s Group Work |
| 8. | Week8 | 2 | Longinus |
| 9. | Week9 | 2 | Plotinus |
| 10. | Week10 | 2 | Student Presentation |
| 11. | Week11 | 2 | Russian Formalism and New Criticism |
| 12. | Week12 | 2 | Mathew Arnold |
| 13. | Week13 | 2 | Group discussion about Criticism and Theory |
| 14. | Week14 | 2 | Revision |
| 15. | Week15 | Final Examination | |

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| **19.** | **Examinations:** |
| **20.** | **Course Policy:**     1. Attendance and Participation Policy:   • Attendance is required for all classes and will be recorded.  • Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions, group activities, and workshops.  • If a student must miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, they should notify the instructor in advance and make arrangements to catch up on missed material.   1. Assignment Submission and Late Work Policy:   • Assignments should be submitted by the specified deadline, either in class or through the designated online platform.  • Late submissions may incur a penalty, typically a deduction of a certain percentage of the assignment’s grade per day.  • Exceptions may be granted for valid reasons such as illness or emergencies, provided the student communicates with the instructor in a timely manner and provides appropriate documentation if necessary.   1. Academic Integrity Policy:   • Students are expected to adhere to principles of academic integrity.  • Plagiarism, cheating, and any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. • Proper citation of sources, both in-text and in the bibliography, is required for all written assignments and research projects.  • Students should familiarize themselves with the institution’s policies regarding academic integrity and the consequences of violations. |
| **21.** | **Note:** |