



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN PRAGUE

Course: LIT210 Analysis and Interpretation of Literature (6 ECTS/ 3 credit hours)

Semester: Fall 2023

Prerequisites: None

Instructor:

Contact:

Class meets:

Office hours:

1. Catalogue Description

This course emphasises critical reading and critical thinking. It focuses on different modes of, and movements within, literary theory. These critical frameworks are relevant and applicable to other forms of art and many type of non-fiction prose. The course focusses on debating and writing papers based upon classic works of literature, to demonstrate an understanding of analytical tools and methods.

2. Course Purpose

The course purpose is to give students different methods and analytical frameworks to discuss literature. Students will debate and write a research paper demonstrating an understanding of different approaches to literature. They will also be introduced to several seminal works from the literary cannon.

3. Required Readings

All required reading will be made available to students via elearning.

4. Additional Readings

- Cain, W. E., Finke, L. A., Johnson, B. E., McGowan, J., Sharpley-Whiting, T. D., & Williams, J. J. (Eds.). (2010). *The Norton anthology of theory and criticism* (2nd ed.). WW Norton.
- Rivkin, J., & Ryan, M. (2004). *Literary Theory: An Anthology* (2nd ed.). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Frye, Northrop. (1957). *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

5. Additional Resources

- The Writing Laboratory (WRL), located at Belgická 40 on the 4th floor, is committed to helping students attending the University of New York in Prague to become better writers across the academic curriculum. The WRL works with students at undergraduate and graduate levels, and at any stage in the writing process. The WRL is staffed by trained academic writing instructors, who ensure that the best advice is provided to students.
- Additional weekly tutoring sessions are available to help students improve their composition skills and answer any queries about English grammar. These sessions are offered as an optional supplement to the course.

6. Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- Analyse and discuss key works of literature.
- Increase their ability to write grammatically.
- Develop critical thinking and critical reading abilities.
- Develop their abilities to do research and document research essays.
- Develop group work and participation.

7. Draft Schedule

Please note that specific readings for each class are subject to change; students will be informed of any modifications in the preceding week. Be aware that there are a number of State Holidays which may disrupt the ideal sequence of tasks; any necessary make-up classes will be decided during the semester. The following schedule may vary according to individual class needs and requirements; students will be updated on any modifications as the semester progresses. Remember IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK E-LEARNING FOR CURRENT TASKS AND REQUIREMENTS!

Session 1: Course Introduction; The History of Literary Analysis

- Syllabus & course outline; Turnitin
- Discuss *UNYP* Honour Code
- Revision of ideas and practitioners Students have studied on other courses
- Reading and reaction to short prose and poetry

Session 2: Reader Response Criticism & Aesthetics

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Roland Barthes, Wolfgang Iser and Oscar Wilde.
- Class discussion of poetry by Federico Garcia Lorca, Oscar Wilde and popular contemporary poets.

Session 3: Structuralism and Formalism

- Lecture on theory covering ideas of Viktor Shklovsky, Cleanth Brooks, Roman Jakobson & David Lodge.
- Class discussion of James Joyce – Dubliners & Aldous Huxley – Mortal Coils.

Session 4: Post-structuralism & Deconstruction

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Jacques Derrida & Michel Foucault
- Class discussion of Louis MacNiece – Selected Poems & A.S. Byatt – The Little Black Book of Stories.

Session 5: New Historicism

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Stephen Greenblatt & Camille Paglia
- Class discussion of W.B. Yeats – Selected Poems, Dino Buzzati – The Columbar & Gunter Grass – The Dresden Trilogy.

Session 6: Working with Texts

- Groupwork on analysing and discussing set texts.
- Set texts will be assigned based upon the students' own interests and students are encouraged to make suggestions.

Session 7: MID-TERM EXAM

- APA guidelines will be provided if needed for the test.

****Students who are failing after the final due to absences and/or grades are strongly advised to withdraw from the course due to inevitable course failure.***

Session 8: Psychoanalytical & Archetypal Criticism

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung & Ernest Jones.
- Class discussion of John Steinbeck – To a God Unknown & Ian McEwan – The Cement Garden.

Session 9: Marxist Criticism

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Leon Trotsky, Antonio Gramsci & Terry Eagleton
- Class discussion of Henrik Ibsen – An Enemy of the People & Maxim Gorky – The Song of the Stormy Petrel.

Session 10: Feminist Criticism

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Helene Cixous, Sandra Gilbert & Susan Gubar.
- Class discussion of Carol Ann Duffy's – The World's Wife & Kate Chopin – The Story of an Hour.

Session 11: Queer Theory

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Judith Butler, Edward Carpenter & Jack Halberstam.
- Discussion of Angela Carter – The Passion of New Eve & Jean Genet – Selected Writing

Session 12: Postcolonialism Criticism

- Lecture on theory covering the ideas of Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Frantz Fanon & Edward Said.
- Discussion of Aime Cesaire – Selected Writing, Sony Lab'ou Tansi – Selected Writing and Salman Rushdie – Midnight's Children

Session 13: Presentations

Session 14: Final Exam. The Registrar's Office will post a schedule of dates and times for examinations. Please make a note of the date, time and room of the exam one month in advance. Final grades will be ready one week after the date of the test.

Session 15: Final Class. The class will meet for a final lesson, where feedback will be given following the final exam and the students can give feedback on the literature covered over the course.

Course Requirements and Grading – the course will be graded on the basis of:

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|-----------------------|-----|
| – Homework & Quizzes | 5% |
| – Presentation | 15% |
| – Midterm Exam | 25% |
| – Final Exam | 25% |
| – Class participation | 30% |

Homework and Quizzes:

All essays, written assignments, in class writing and quizzes are included unless otherwise specified. Please note that missed quizzes or in-class work will not be made up.

Presentation:

Students will give a presentation on week 13 applying the analytical frameworks discussed in class to an assigned text. They will need to present the work literature to the class and then lead a debate surrounding any contentious issues.

Midterm Exam:

The midterm exam takes place in week 7. Students who fail the midterm are strongly advised to withdraw. The date and the exam format will be announced during the course of the semester.

Final Exam:

The final exam takes place in week 15. Please note make-ups are not possible. The date and the exam format will be announced during the course of the semester.

Class Participation:

Participation extends beyond mere attendance. Expect your instructor to keep track of how often you (positively) contribute to class discussion (as a whole), particularly during

the class discussions of assigned readings. Failure to read course material or complete homework questions and exercises will directly affect your grade. Please note that students' behavior will be recorded on a weekly basis.

Grading scale

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	95-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-94	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above the average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

Averages will be calculated as follows:

A 95	A- 90	B+ 87
B 83	B- 80	C+ 77
C 73	C- 70	D+ 67
D 63	D- 60	F 59 and below

Criteria for Determination of Grade:

Students must

- submit assignments on time and in the correct format
- pass midterm and final exam
- attend and participate in class

8. Key UNYP Policies

Class Attendance:

- It is your responsibility to show up to class on time. If you are late you will be marked as absent for that hour. **If you miss more than 9 (nine) hours of class for any reason, you will automatically fail the entire course. Pay strict attention to this. The class policy is standard UNYP policy.**
- Lateness will not be tolerated. “Late” is defined as 5 minutes past the beginning of class, by the instructor’s watch. Late students should not enter the classroom, but wait in the library until the next hour of class begins.

Academic Honesty

- Students are expected to understand the seriousness of plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism includes submitting assignments for other courses. On written papers, use your own words and opinions. Properly note your sources with academic citations. **Do not cut and paste anything from the Internet.** Any paper plagiarized will get an “F”. Please be aware that students may be called upon to present any paper submitted at ANY time throughout the course.
- Cheating or any unauthorized communication including phone use or copying from your neighbor during a midterm, quiz or final exam will result in an automatic fail.
- The University’s rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE or ask your instructor for clarification.

9. General Requirements

- Students are expected to attend each class session and participate in a positive way.
- Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss homework readings.
- All media and communication devices, including computers, phones, ipads etc. may not be used in ways that distract you or other students from our work during class meetings. Students may not use electronic devices for any reason other than taking notes. Do not surf the WEB during class time. If you do, you will lose the privilege to use said devices.
- If students persist in using electronic devices against the instructor’s wishes, their devices may be confiscated for the duration of the class and their participation grade will be severely affected.
- Reading of newspapers or materials for other classes is prohibited. Please note that such activities will result in a lowering of the final grade for the course.
- Missed quizzes or in-class work will not be made up.
- Students with learning disabilities should report to Professor Sanders before classes begin.
- In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible.
- Work done in class will be submitted handwritten but must be legible.
- Homework is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. As we will be regularly reviewing your homework assignments, students must have them prepared in paper format for

the beginning of the class period on the day they are due. Be aware that printers and computers may not be available half an hour before the start of the class, so make sure to prepare your work in advance. Problems of this nature will not be accepted as legitimate excuses. One week late will result in a whole grade point deduction (i.e. an A becomes a B, and so on). Later than one week is an automatic fail (F).

- ALL homework must be typed on an English calibrated keyboard, font size 12pt., with double spacing, standard margins and have number pages. It must be spell and grammar checked and use APA format if sources have been used.
- If homework is not presented as required an automatic F will be given. In addition, students may be called upon at any time to verify sources used and orally present/ discuss any written work that has been submitted.
- NO HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.

Any behavioral disruptions will result in the student being excused from class. Please note that any such activities will also result in a lowering of the final grade for the course.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

10. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS):

The students that complete the course will receive 6 ECTS credits or 3 American credits. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of work. For comparison, 1 American credit hour equals approximately 2 ECTS credits.

For this course, students are expected to spend time in the following course-related activities:

Class Lectures and exams	48 hours
Reading class related material	50 hours
Homework writing and exercises	15 hours
Exam preparations	25 hours
Team preparation	15 hours
Final Project preparation	15 hours
TOTAL	168 hours

11. Technology Expectations:

- Assignments, excluding those that are carried out exclusively in class, must be word-processed and spell-checked.
- Students are assumed to be familiar with the use of the Internet and in particular with the gathering of data from the World Wide Web. This will be a necessary tool for carrying out some of the course assignments (i.e. research essay or class presentations).

Modified February. 2023