

**UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA
 ESCUELA DE LENGUAS MODERNAS
 BACHILLERATO EN INGLÉS
 SECCIÓN LITERATURA INGLESA**

Proposed Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Literary Criticism	Pre-requisites: LM-1471, LM-1472
Course Code: LM-1486	Co-requisites: LM-1485
Credits: 3	Academic Cycle: VIII
Hours: 9 Class Work: 4 Out-of-Class Work: 5	Type: Course of study for the B.A. degree in English
Level: 4th year	Level of virtuality: 25%

I. Course Description

Literary Criticism is a required course for fourth-year English students. This course is designed to introduce students to basic critical approaches to literature and their applications while fomenting understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of literature.

II. Objectives

General Objectives

- A. Have a clear, basic understanding of the role of literary criticism and theory on literary studies, including mythic, feminist, cultural studies/new historicism, and reader-response approaches to literature
- B. Be able to apply the above approaches to literary texts
- C. Foment analytical ability and skills

Specific Objectives

- A. Define and characterize each of the critical approaches studied
- B. Understand and employ specific concepts from each approach in the analysis and interpretation of given literary works
- C. Develop ability to support ideas from both primary and secondary sources
- D. Differentiate and employ a variety of perspectives in analyzing a given literary work.
- E. Recognize and employ explicit vocabulary associated with each given approach
- F. Explain and defend personal insights and positions clearly and effectively in standard English, both oral and written

III. Contents

1. Introduction (Functions of literary criticism and traditional approaches)
2. Formalistic Approaches
3. Mythic Approaches
4. Feminist Approaches
5. Structuralism and Post-Structuralism
6. New Historicism
7. Cultural Studies
8. Reader Response Approaches

IV. Methodology

Class time will generally be employed in the discussion and analysis of given literary works previously assigned as homework. The professor will review, clarify, and supplement introductory material as needed and guide the students in the application of the given approaches. Student preparation out of class and participation in the class are fundamental for successful completion of the course. Participation includes both informal presentations and discussions whether individual or in groups, and formal oral and written presentations.

V. Evaluation

Evaluation is continuous in the sense that student performance will be observed during each class. Quizzes are unannounced, and no make-up quizzes will be given. Students are responsible for all material discussed and/or assigned. No late papers or presentations will be permitted except in extraordinary cases. The final grade will be based on the following:

Quizzes	15%
Class Work (oral / written assignments)	25%
Papers (2)	20%
Exams (2)	40%

Plagiarism. Plagiarized papers will receive a 0 (cero) and will be kept in your files according to the following guidelines from the “Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la Universidad de Costa Rica”: ARTICULO 4. Son faltas muy graves: g) Utilizar, con conocimiento de causa, documentos falsificados, para cualquier gestión universitaria administrativa, académica o de cualquier otra índole. ARTICULO 5. Son faltas graves: c) Copiar de otro estudiante tareas, informes de laboratorio, trabajos de investigación o de cualquier otro tipo de actividad académica.

Note: Every student is subject to the evaluation rules of the University of Costa Rica.

VI. Bibliography

- Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. New York: Manchester UP, 1995.
- Bressler, Charles E. *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. 3rd. ed. Upper Saddle River. NJ:Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6° ed. New York: MLA, 2003.
- Green, Kenneth and Jill LeBihan. *Critical Theory & Practice: A Coursebook*. New York: Routledge, 1996.
- Guerin, Wilfred L. et al. *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*. 5° ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2005.
- Meyers, Kari and Gilda Pacheco. *The Perceptive Process: An Introductory Guide to Literary Criticism*. San José: Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica, 2003.
- Selden, Raman. *Practicing Theory and Reading Literature*. 3° ed. Lexington. UP of Kentucky, 1989.

VII. Tentative Timetable

March	16: Structuralism/Post structuralism
14: Introduction / Traditional Approaches	19:Movie / Workshop
17: Mythic Approaches	23: Deconst. Presentation / Introduction
21: Mythic Approaches	New Historicism
25: Mythic Approaches	26 New Historicism
28: QUIZ # 1 (Mythic Approaches) Intro.- Gender	30: New Historicism
31: Presentation # 1 (Mythic Approaches)	June
	6: New Historicism / Int. Cultural Studies
April	9: Cultural Studies
4: Gender Approaches	13: Cultural Studies
7: Gender Approaches	16: Cultural Studies + introduction to
11: EASTER	Reader's Response
14: EASTER	20: Reader's Response + Paper # 2(New
18:Gender Approaches	Histor)
21: QUIZ # 2 (Femin.) + Gender Approaches	23: Reader's Response +
25: intro Structuralism/Post-structuralism (U Week)	QUIZ # 3 (Cult. Studies)
28: NO CLASS	27: Presentation # 2 (Reader's Response)
	30: Review for exam
	July
May	4: EXAM II
2: Structuralism/Post-structuralism	7: Grades
5: Structuralism/Post-structuralism	14: Ampliación exam
9: EXAM I	
12: Structuralism / Post structuralism + Paper # 1	

Additional Notes:

1- Students are required to submit an electronic version of their out-of-class papers, along with the printed version, to be kept as a backup document by the Literature Department. However, unless told otherwise by their instructor in advance, the electronic version does not replace the printed version. The printed version is the only valid document to be evaluated and taken into account regarding late assignments.

2- Essays are to be handed in ONLY during the first 15 minutes of class in the corresponding classroom. Papers failing to follow MLA standards thoroughly will be graded with a ZERO.

3- This course may involve a 25% of virtual activities, at the professor's discretion. If so, make sure to comply with the regulations, standards and requirements of the University of Costa Rica for your participation.

4- Cellphones and other electronic devices are totally forbidden during class time.

5- The professor does not have the obligation to send material covered during class to students, either by e-mail or by any other electronic means.