

Introduction to Literature

Course description 2017

Form: 1 lecture + 2 seminars

Lecturer: PaedDr. Andrea Puskás, PhD.

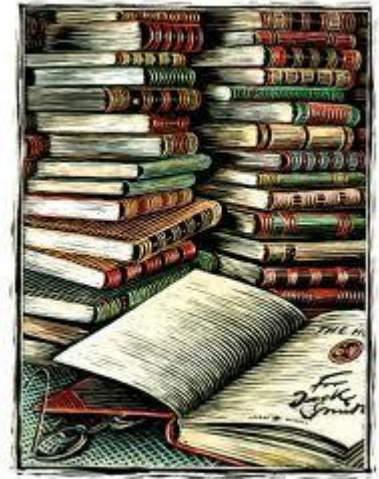
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Course objectives:

Having completed the course, a successful learner will be able to:

- identify some of the major differences among fiction, drama and poetry
- discuss basic terminology of literary theory
- characterise and compare several approaches and types of literary criticism

Tentative syllabus:

Lectures:

15 Feb – Introduction to the course. Description of course syllabus. What is literature?

22 Feb – Elements of fiction I. Plot, character, setting

1 March – Elements of fiction II. Point of view, type of narrator, style

8 March – Classification of fiction

15 March – Elements of drama I. Theories of tragedy and comedy

22 March – Elements of drama II. Classification, the history of drama, the Theatre of the Absurd

29 March – **Half-term test**

5 April – Elements of poetry I. Figures of speech

12 April – Elements of poetry II. Classification of poems

19 April – Literary criticism I. New Criticism, Formalism, Structuralism, Hermeneutics and Reception Theory

26 April – Literary criticism II. Psychoanalysis, Feminism

3 May – Literary criticism III. Post-structuralism, Postmodernism, Postcolonial Theory

10 May – **End-of-term test**

Seminars:

1. 13/14 February: Introduction to the course. Working with literary texts.

2. 20/21 February: **Roald Dahl: The Hitchhiker**

3. 27/28 February: **Charles Dickens: The Signal-Man**

4. 6/7 March: **Ernest Hemingway: The Old Man at the Bridge. A Very Short Story**

5. 13/14 March: **James Joyce: Araby**

6. 20/21 March: **Mark Twain: Extracts From Adam's Diary**

7. 27/28 March: **George Bernard Shaw: How He Lied to Her Husband (Drama Lesson)**

8. 3/4 April: **Robert Frost (The Road Not Taken), Ted Hughes (The Shot)**

9. 10/11 April: **Neil Gaiman: Stardust 1**

10. 17-18 April: *Easter break*

11. 24/25 April: **Neil Gaiman: Stardust 2; Concluding Thoughts** (for the first group on

Monday)

12. 1/2 May: *Holiday* (for the first group on Monday) / *Concluding thoughts* (for the second and third group on Tuesday)

13. 8/9 May: *Holiday* (for the first group on Monday) / *Missed micro-tests (for all groups)*

Assessment based on:

- **written exam** – You can collect **100 points** during the whole semester. During lecture time, you are going to take a **half-term** and an **end-of-term test on theory** (materials and topics discussed during lectures), for each test you can obtain 30 points, i.e. 60 points for the two tests together. During the seminars you can collect 40 points for taking **micro-tests** during the lessons (for each test you can obtain 5 points, except Hemingway's two short stories – 2 and 3 points, and Gaiman's book – 10 points). These micro-tests will include questions on the compulsory reading assignments for each lesson. In order to pass the course, you must collect at least 50 points (50%), otherwise you get an Fx in AIS; after this you will have 2 more exam dates for retaking the test during the exam period (retakers' test will include both questions on theory and questions on the literary texts you had to read for the course).
- **regular class attendance** – no more than 2 absences (2 occasions at the lectures and 2 occasions at the seminars), if you miss more than 2 classes, each extra absence means -5 points from your final result; And no, the first week does not count.
- **active participation during the lessons** – you are asked to read the literary works **typed in bold** in the course syllabus and participate in class discussions actively – showing that you have really read them. The **micro-tests** at the beginning of the seminar are going to check whether you have read the literary work. During the last week of the semester, you have to take all the micro-tests you have missed. Please always bring a copy of the text you had to read with you so that you can work with it during the seminars.

Recommended literature:

- ◆ PECK, John – Martin Coyle. 2002. *Literary Terms and Criticism*. Third Edition. Palgrave Macmillan.
- ◆ BENNETT, Andrew – Nicholas ROYLE. 2004. *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*. Third Edition. Pearson Longman.
- ◆ CARTER, David. 2006. *Literary Theory*. Pocket Essentials.
- ◆ ARISTOTLE. 1996. *Poetics*. Penguin Books.
- ◆ CUDDON, J. A. 1992. *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. London: Penguin Books.
- ◆ CLAYTON, J. J. 1992. *The Heath Introduction to Fiction*. Fourth Edition. Lexington.
- ◆ EAGLETON, Terry. 1996. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Blackwell Publishers.
- ◆ RICHARDS, I. A. 1929. *Practical Criticism*. London: Harcourt Brace & Company.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Enjoy the course!