

BACHELOR 'S PROGRAMME  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF STUDY, 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

|                          |   |
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| COURSE TITLE             | <b>INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY AND CULTURAL THEORIES (OPTIONAL COURSE)</b><br>AKA "I LIKE BIG THEORIES AND I CANNOT LIE"   |
| COURSE CODE              | MM2156  |
| COURSE TYPE              | full attendance   |
| COURSE LEVEL             | 1 <sup>ST</sup> cycle (bachelor's degree)   |
| YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of study, 1 <sup>st</sup> semester   |
| NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS   | 4   |
| NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK | 2 (lecture hours)   |
| NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER   | Dr. Lorelei Caraman   |
| PREREQUISITES            | Advanced level of English   |
| A                        | GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES   |
|                          | <p><b>General competences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Critical thinking</li> <li>→ Communication Skills</li> <li>→ Integrative Thinking</li> </ul> <p><b>Course-specific competences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Applied Critical Thinking;</li> <li>→ Applied Communication Skills;</li> <li>→ Intercultural communication;</li> <li>→ Academic Writing Skills;</li> </ul>   |
| B                        | LEARNING OUTCOMES   |
|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Knowledge of main critical theories from New Criticism to Posthumanism;</li> <li>→ Ability to apply theories to anything from literature to your own life;</li> <li>→ Applied critical thinking skills;</li> <li>→ Applied problem-solving skills;</li> <li>→ Better understanding of literature and culture;</li> <li>→ Better understanding of yourself, others and the world around you;</li> <li>→ Ability to juggle with various theoretical concepts;</li> <li>→ Ability to approach literature and culture from new perspectives;</li> </ul>  |
| C                        | LECTURE CONTENT   |
|                          | <p><u>General course description:</u><br/> <i>The Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theories course is an odyssey taking place on a territory feared by many and avoided by most: that of theory and criticism. Big scary names and strange-sounding words inhabit this unfamiliar realm: Saussure, Derrida, Lacan, Freud, alterity, hegemony, logocentrism, anthropocentrism, phallogocentrism... names and words that may have given you headaches as a freshman. So why embark upon such a frightful journey you may ask? Because beauty, pleasure, enjoyment, playfulness, are not always to be found in the most expected places. Sometimes they are concealed from a naked or untrained eye, other times they may take different forms, shape shift like a Native American spirit...waiting to reveal themselves to the minds of the keenest and bravest students. So, this course is meant not only to make you less afraid of theory, but also to enable you to see its beauty and use its power to your advantage: to be empowered, rather than overpowered by it.</i><br/> <i>To those of you who are brave enough to embark on this journey, I salute you!</i></p> <p><u>SCHEDULE, TOPICS &amp; RECOMMENDED FUNDAMENTAL THEORY TEXTS</u></p> <p><b>Week 1: Going over the Syllabus</b></p> |

**Week 2: “I like big theories and I cannot lie”:** Why We Do Theory & What It Does to Us

**Week 3: New Criticism, Formalism & Structuralism**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
J. Crowe Ransom: “Criticism, Inc.”  
R. Barthes: “The Death of the Author”

*Handout 1: Working with Form*

**Week 4: Reader-Response (Reception Theory)**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
S. Fish: “Is There a Text in this Class?”  
N. Holland: “Transactive Criticism”

*Handout 2: Working with the Reader*

**Week 5: Psychoanalysis**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
S. Freud: “Creative Writers and Day-dreaming”  
J. Lacan: “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience”

*Handout 3: Working with the Psyché*

**Week 6: Theories Lab 1 (+ Avoiding Plagiarism)**

Your questions on New Criticism, Structuralism, Reader-Response and Psychoanalysis.

Your questions on the recommended fundamental theory texts.

Working with Form, the Reader & the Psyché: What do we ask of the Text?

What is plagiarism & whom does it hurt? Types of Plagiarism.

**Week 7: Feminism, Gender & Queer Studies**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
T. Moi: “Feminist, Female, Feminine”  
G. Rubin: “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality”

*Handout 4: Working with Gender and Sexuality*

**Week 8: Poststructuralism/ Deconstruction**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
J. Derrida: “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences”  
J. Hillis Miller – “The Critic as Host”

*Handout 5: Working with the Instability of Language*

**Week 9: Cultural Studies, New Historicism & Postcolonialism**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
R. Barthes: “Striptease” (from *Mythologies*)  
S. Bordo: “The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity” (from *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture and the Body*)

*Handout 6: Working with Alterity & Structures of Power*

**Week 10: Theories Lab 2 (+ More on Avoiding Plagiarism)**

Your questions on Feminism, Gender, Queer Studies, Deconstruction & Cultural Studies

Your questions on the recommended fundamental theory texts.

Working with Gender & Sexuality, the Instability of Language, the “Other” & Structures of Power:

What do we ask of the Text?

Recognizing Plagiarism Exercises.

**Week 11: Posthumanism: Human-Animal Studies, Ecocriticism, Transhumanism**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
J. Derrida: “The Animal that Therefore I am (More to Follow)”  
D. Haraway: “We have never been Human: Introductions” (from *When Species Meet*)  
N. Katherine Hayles: “Virtual Bodies and Flickering Signifiers” (from *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*)

*Handout 7: Working against Anthropocentrism*

**Week 12: Trauma, Disability & Mad Studies + Other Emerging Theories**

- Recommended Fundamental Theory Texts:  
G. H. Hartman: “On Traumatic Knowledge and Literary Studies”  
M. Price: “Introduction” in *Mad at School: Rhetorics of Mental Disability and Academic Life*

*Handout 8: Working with Emerging Theories*

**Week 13: Theories Lab 3**



Your questions on Posthumanism, Trauma, Disability, Mad Studies & Other Emerging Theories  
 Your questions on the recommended fundamental theory texts.  
 Working against Anthropocentrism & Incorporating Emerging Theories: What do we ask of the Text?

**Week 14: Final Paper Guidelines Review**

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|---|---|-------------------------|
| D | RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES  |                         |
|   | <p>Barry, Peter (ed). Issues in Contemporary Critical Theory (Macmillan: 1987). *Available at the Reading Room<br/>         Booker, Keith M. A Practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (Longman: 1996) *Available at the Reading Room<br/>         Collins, Jeff, Mayblin, Bill. Introducing Derrida: A Graphic Guide. (London: Icon Books, 2011).<br/>         Culler, Jonathan. Structuralist Poetics: Structuralism, Linguistics and the Study of Literature (Routledge: 2004).<br/>         Culler, Jonathan. On deconstruction: Theory and Criticism after Structuralism. (Cornell University Press: 1986).<br/>         Davis, Lennard J. The Disability Studies Reader. 4th ed. (Routledge: 2013).<br/>         DeMello, Margo. Animals and Society: An Introduction to Human-Animal Studies. (Columbia University Press: 2012).<br/>         Dobie, Ann B. Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism, 3rd ed. (Wadsworth, 2012).<br/>         Guerin, L. Wilfred et.al. (eds). A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature. 5th ed. (Oxford 2005)<br/>         Haggerty, George (ed). A Companion to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies (Blackwell, 2007).<br/>         Hartman, Geoffrey H. (ed.) Psychoanalysis &amp; The Question of the Text (Johns Hopkins University Press: 1978) *Available at the Reading Room<br/>         Hayles, Katherine N. My Mother Was a Computer: Digital Subjects and Literary Texts. (University of Chicago Press, 2005).<br/>         Jenainati, Cathia. Groves, Judy. Introducing Feminism: A Graphic Guide. (London: Icon Books, 2010).<br/>         Klages, Mary. Literary Theory: A Guide for the Perplexed (Continuum, 2011).<br/>         Leitch, B. Vincent (ed). The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism (Norton: 2010). *Available at the Department Library<br/>         Marcus, Laura. Mukherjee, Ankhi. A Concise Companion to Psychoanalysis, Literature and Culture. (Blackwell, 2014).<br/>         Matthews, Sean et.al. (eds). Theories: A Reader (Paralela 45: 2003) *Available at the Reading Room<br/>         Moi, Toril. What is a Woman? And Other Essays (Oxford University Press: 1999). *Available at the Reading Room<br/>         McRuer, Robert. Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability (New York University Press, 2006).<br/>         Morland, Iain. Willox, Annabelle. (eds) Readers in Cultural Criticism: Queer Theory. (Macmillan, 2005).<br/>         Parker, Robert Dale. How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory of Literary and Cultural Studies. (Oxford: 2015)<br/>         Pilcher, Jane. Whelehan, Imelda. 50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies. (Sage, 2004).<br/>         Rivkin, Julie. Ryan, Michael (eds). Literary Theory: An Anthology. 3rd ed. (Wiley Blackwell, 2017).<br/>         Sardar, Ziauddin. Van Loon, Borin. Introducing Cultural Studies: A Graphic Guide. (London: Icon Books, 2010)<br/>         Sim, Stuart. Van Loon, Borin. Introducing Critical Theory: A Graphic Guide. (London: Icon, 2009).<br/>         Staton, Shirley F. Literary Theories in Praxis (University of Pennsylvania Press: 1987).<br/>         Tompkins, Jane P. Reader-response Criticism: from Formalism to Post-structuralism (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994).<br/>         Tyson, Lois. Critical Theory Today: a User-Friendly Guide. 2nd ed. (Routledge: 2006)<br/>         Wolfe, Cary. What is Posthumanism? (University of Minnesota Press: 2010).<br/>         Wolfe, Cary. Animal Rites: American Culture, the Discourse of Species and Posthumanist Theory (University of Chicago Press, 2003).</p> |                         |
| G | EDUCATION STYLE   |                         |
|   | LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS   | Interactive Lectures    |
|   | ASSESSMENT METHODS  | 100% : Take-home exam ; |
|   | LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION   | English                 |