**Course schedule**

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| **Course title:** | | **Literary and Cultural Studies: Contemporary Approaches - Seminar** |
| **Course code:** | | **BBN-ANG-114/t** |
| **Time:** | | Tuesday 8.30-10.00 |
| **Room:** | | Building R, Room 315. |
| **Hours per week:** | | 2 |
| **Credits:** | | 3 |
| **Instructor:** | | Dr. Gálla Edit  external lecturer  galla.edit@gmail.com |
| **Course description:** | | The course aims to acquaint students with the basic concepts and ideas of literary theory as well as important theoretical schools and movements. In addition to providing an introduction to the conceptual tools of literary criticism and theory, the course also aims to familiarise students with practical literary criticism by means of in-class discussions of specific literary works. |
| **Requirements and assessment:** | | Assessment will be based on 3 in-class tests, each of which includes a short essay writing task, as well as active in-class participation.   1. Tests 1-3: each test (30p each) consists of multiple choice and other test items (15p) and a mini essay that answers a question about a literary work discussed in class (15p): 3x30p = 90p = 90% 2. Active in-class participation: includes participation in the discussions, reading the set texts and doing homework for each class: 10p = 10%   Grading scale: 0-59%: 1; 60-69%: 2; 70-75%: 3; 76-85%: 4; 86-100%. 5.  In case you are absent on a test-taking day, you can write one make-up test (mixed items from Tests 1-3; 30p) in the last week of the course.  **Attendance is compulsory: a maximum of 3 absences are allowed, including absences due to illness.** |
| **Course schedule** | | |
| **Week and date:** | | **Topic:** |
| 1 | 13 February 2024 | Course orientation: course schedule, compulsory literature, assessment.  **Defining theory**: theory as a term – theory as a genre. |
| 2 | 20 February 2024 | Smith, Stevie: “Not Waving But Drowning”  **The concept of literature**: the literariness of texts – the conventions and characteristics of literature – the functions of literature. |
| 3 | 27 February 2024 | Frost, Robert: “The Road Not Taken”  **Literature and cultural studies**: the relation between literary studies and cultural studies – the emergence of cultural studies – the effect of cultural studies on the literary canon and modes of analysis. |
| 4 | 5 March 2024 | Dickens, Charles: “The Signal-Man”  **Language and meaning**: meaning in literature – Saussure’s theory of language – poetics and hermeneutics – interpretation. |
| 5 | 12 March 2024 | **Test 1: Defining theory,** **The concept of literature,** **Literature and cultural studies,** **Language and meaning**  **Rhetoric, poetics and poetry**: definitions – rhetorical figures – genres – poetry as word and act – lyric poetry. |
| 6 | 19 March 2024 | Keats, John: “Ode to a Nightingale”  **Narrative**: narratology – plot and story – the narrator – focalization – the function of narratives. |
| 7 | 26 March 2024 | Poe, Edgar Allan: “The Black Cat”  **Theory before “theory”:** the rise of English studies – a brief history of literary theorising before “theory” – liberal humanism and New Criticism – the transition to “theory.” |
| 8 | 2 April 2024 | Shakespeare, William: Sonnet XVIII (“Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?”)  **Structuralism**: the contrast between structuralism and liberal humanism – Ferdinand de Saussure – structural networks – Roland Barthes – the method of structuralist critics. |
| 9 | 9 April 2024 | **Test2: Rhetoric, poetics and poetry,** **Narrative,** **Theory before “theory,”** **Structuralism**  **Post-structuralism and deconstruction**: the differences between structuralism and post-structuralism – the post-structuralist turn: Roland Barthes and Jacques Derrida – applied post-structuralism: deconstruction. |
| 10 | 16 April 2024 | Woolf, Virginia: “The Mark on the Wall”  **Postmodernism**: the distinction between modernism and postmodernism – Francois Lyotard and Jean Baudrillard – the method of postmodernist critics. |
| 11 | 23 April 2024 | Yeats, William Butler: “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”  **Psychoanalytic criticism**: Sigmund Freud and psychoanalysis -Freudian interpretation – Freud and evidence – the method of Freudian psychoanalytic critics – Jacques Lacan – the method of Lacanian critics. |
| 12 | 30 April 2024 | O’Connor, Flannery: “The Life You Save May Be Your Own”  **Feminist criticism**: feminism and feminist criticism – feminist criticism and language – feminist criticism and psychoanalysis – the method of feminist critics. |
| 13 | 7 May 2024 | **Test 3: Post-structuralism and deconstruction,** **Postmodernism,** **Psychoanalytic criticism,** **Feminist criticism** |
| 14 | 14 May 2024 | Revision and course evaluation. |

**Compulsory reading:**

Dickens, Charles: “The Signal-Man”

Frost, Robert: “The Road Not Taken”

Keats, John: “Ode to a Nightingale”

O’Connor, Flannery: “The Life You Save May Be Your Own”

Poe, Edgar Allan: “The Black Cat”

Shakespeare, William: Sonnet XVIII (“Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?”)

Smith, Stevie: “Not Waving But Drowning”

Woolf, Virginia: “The Mark on the Wall”

Yeats, William Butler: “The Lake Isle of Innisfree”

**Recommended reading:**

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 1995.

Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.

Rice, Philip, and Patricia Waugh, eds. *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*, 4th ed. London: Arnold, 2001.