



Course Specification

(Bachelor)

Course Title: Literary Criticism

Course Code: ENG4267-2

Program: Bachelor of Arts in English

Department: Department of English

College: College of Languages and Translation

Institution: King Khalid University

Version: 2

Last Revision Date: February 11, 2026

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A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: (2)

2. Course type

A. ☐ University ☐ College ☒ Department ☐ Track ☐ Others
B. ☒ Required ☐ Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: (Semester 7 – Year 4)

4. Course General Description:

Literary Criticism (ENG4267-2) is an advanced course designed to introduce students to major schools of modern literary theory and their practical application in the interpretation and evaluation of literary texts. The course traces the historical development of literary criticism, beginning with classical thought and progressing through neoclassical, romantic, realist, and modern theoretical movements. It explores key critical approaches such as Structuralism, Post-structuralism, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Marxism, Feminism, New Historicism, Postcolonialism, and Ecocriticism, emphasizing their distinct concepts, methods, and cultural implications. Through critical reading, discussion, and analytical writing, students will develop the ability to apply theoretical frameworks to diverse literary genres, formulate well-structured arguments, and engage critically with literary and cultural texts in a global context.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

ENG2361-3 Introduction to Literature

6. Co-requisites for this course (if any):

N/A

7. Course Main Objective(s):

The main objectives of Literary Criticism (ENG4267-2) are to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of major modern literary theories and critical approaches.
- Enable students to identify, analyze, and apply key theoretical concepts in interpreting literary texts.
- Strengthen students' analytical and critical thinking skills through engagement with diverse theoretical perspectives.
- Foster the ability to construct coherent, well-reasoned arguments supported by textual and theoretical evidence.
- Promote an understanding of the relationship between literary criticism, cultural contexts, and social change.
- Encourage intellectual independence and scholarly reflection in approaching literary works and criticism.





2. Teaching mode (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	30	100%
2	E-learning	-	-
3	Hybrid - Traditional classroom - E-learning	-	-
4	Distance learning	-	-

3. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1.	Lectures	30
2.	Laboratory/Studio	-
3.	Field	-
4.	Tutorial	-
5.	Others (specify)	-
Total		30

B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding			
1.1	Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the historical development of literary criticism from classical to contemporary schools of thought.	K3	- Interactive lectures and visual presentations of theories and key critics. - Guided readings and note-taking	- Midterm Exam - Final Exam



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			on primary and secondary theoretical texts. - Mini-seminars analyzing sample texts through specific theoretical lenses. - Instructor-led discussions connecting theories with historical and cultural contexts.	
1.2	Explain the key principles, terminology, and assumptions of major modern critical theories such as Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Marxism, Feminist Theory, and Postcolonialism.	K3, K5	- Interactive lectures and visual presentations of theories and key critics. - Guided readings and note-taking on primary and secondary theoretical texts. - Mini-seminars analyzing sample texts through specific theoretical lenses. - Instructor-led discussions connecting theories with historical and cultural contexts.	- Midterm Exam - Final Exam
1.3	Discuss the relationship between literary criticism and	K4	Interactive lectures and visual	Reading Quizzes



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	broader cultural, philosophical, and social movements in modern thought.		presentations of theories and key critics. - Guided readings and note-taking on primary and secondary theoretical texts. - Mini-seminars analyzing sample texts through specific theoretical lenses. - Instructor-led discussions connecting theories with historical and cultural contexts.	
1.4	Identify key theorists and their contributions to the development of modern critical theory.	K3, K5		
2.0	Skills			
2.1	Apply relevant critical theories to analyze and interpret selected literary texts across genres.	S1	- Analytical writing workshops focusing on argument structure and evidence use. - Group projects applying different theories to one literary text. - Peer feedback sessions on essays and presentations.	Final Exam



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			Critical review of scholarly articles and comparative theory exercises.	
2.2	Compare and evaluate multiple theoretical approaches to determine their strengths, limitations, and applicability to specific literary works.	S2	- Analytical writing workshops focusing on argument structure and evidence use. - Group projects applying different theories to one literary text. - Peer feedback sessions on essays and presentations. - Critical review of scholarly articles and comparative theory exercises.	- Group Project & Presentation - Analytical Essay
2.3	Develop well-structured arguments to support interpretations of literary texts, demonstrating critical thinking and analytical skills	S7	- Analytical writing workshops focusing on argument structure and evidence use. - Group projects applying different theories to one literary text. - Peer feedback sessions on essays and presentations. - Critical review of scholarly articles	- Group Project & Presentation - Analytical Essay





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			and comparative theory exercises.	
3.0	• Values, autonomy, and responsibility			
3.1	Demonstrate openness to diverse critical perspectives and respect for differing interpretations of literary works.	V1	• Reflective journaling on personal engagement with theoretical ideas. • Peer discussions encouraging respect for intellectual diversity. • Group collaboration in classroom debates and theory applications. • Self-assessment activities promoting accountability and professional ethics.	• Class participation and peer evaluation (collaboration and respect).
3.2	Collaborate effectively with peers in discussions, group analyses, and presentations on literary theories.	V2	• Reflective journaling on personal engagement with theoretical ideas. • Peer discussions encouraging respect for intellectual diversity. • Group collaboration in classroom debates and theory	• Reflective journal on ethical dimensions of interpretation.





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			applications. Self-assessment activities promoting accountability and professional ethics.	
3.3	Exhibit intellectual independence, self-reflection, and a commitment to lifelong learning in literary study.	V3	- Reflective journaling on personal engagement with theoretical ideas. - Peer discussions encouraging respect for intellectual diversity. - Group collaboration in classroom debates and theory applications. - Self-assessment activities promoting accountability and professional ethics.	Instructor observation of teamwork and intellectual engagement.

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	Defining criticism, theory and literature; a brief historical survey of literary criticism	2
2.	Theory before 'theory': literary theorizing from Aristotle to Leavis, key moments	2
3.	The early modern period to the enlightenment: neoclassical literary criticism and the enlightenment	2
4.	The earlier nineteenth century: romanticism	4



5.	The later nineteenth century: realism, naturalism and symbolism	8
6.	Literary theory in the twentieth century: structuralism, post-structuralism, postmodernism, psychoanalytic criticism, feminist criticism, Marxism, new historicism, postcolonial criticism and ecocriticism	12
Total		30

D. Students Assessment Activities

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Midterm Exam	Week 7	30%
2.	Reading Quizzes	Week 5 & Week 10	10%
3.	Group Project & Presentation	Between week 3 & week 13	10%
4.	Analytical Essay	Week 14	10%
5.	Final Exam	Week 16-17	40%

E. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. References and Learning Resources

Required Textbooks	- Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide (4th ed.) by Lois Tyson - Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice 4th Edition by Charles E. Bressler - Selden, R., Widdowson, P., & Brooker, P. (2005). A reader's guide to contemporary literary theory (5th ed.). Pearson Longman.
Essential References	The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism (3rd ed.) edited by Vincent B. Leitch et al.
Electronic Materials	Students are encouraged to explore reputable online resources to supplement their understanding of literary works, authors, and historical contexts. Recommended online platforms include: Saudi Digital Library: https://itsvcv.kku.edu.sa/KKU_SDL





	- Shmoop: https://www.shmoop.com/ - SparkNotes: https://www.sparknotes.com/
Other Learning Materials	Use of computers, audio-visual tools, and digital platforms is encouraged to enhance engagement with world literature. These resources may include multimedia presentations, online lectures, documentaries, and interactive materials that deepen students' understanding and appreciation of literary texts, themes, and cultural contexts.

2. Required Facilities and equipment

Items	Resources
Facilities	- Standard classroom accommodating 25–30 students - Adequate lighting and ventilation - Comfortable seating arrangements suitable for group discussion - Whiteboard and notice board
Technology equipment	- Computer and stable internet connection for instructor use - Data projector and screen - Audio speakers for multimedia presentations (Optional) Smart board for interactive teaching
Other equipment	- Whiteboard markers and erasers - Portable microphone (if required) - Display or bulletin board for course announcements
Additional resources	- Access to the Saudi Digital Library (SDL) and online academic databases (Optional) Language laboratory facilities for multimedia learning (Optional) Audio equipment for listening to dramatic readings and literary adaptations (Optional) Charging stations or designated tech-use areas for student devices

F. Assessment of Course Quality

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Assessed by students, faculty, program leaders, and peer reviewers using direct feedback and evaluations.	Assessed through student evaluations, peer reviews, classroom observations, and teaching feedback surveys.
Effectiveness of students' assessment	Evaluated by students, faculty, and program leaders through	Evaluated through analysis of exam results, project outcomes, grading



Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
	exam performance, project outcomes, and feedback.	consistency, and student feedback.
Quality of learning resources	Reviewed by faculty and program leaders based on student feedback and peer reviews.	Reviewed via surveys, resource usage analytics, student and faculty feedback, and comparison with academic standards.
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Measured by faculty, program leaders, and peer reviewers using assessments, exams, and student portfolios.	Measured through direct assessments like exams, projects, portfolios, and indirect methods like student self-assessment and surveys.

G. Specification Approval

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COUNCIL
REFERENCE NO.	47-15-2
DATE	FEBRUARY 25, 2026

