ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**2019-2020 FALL**

ELL 391 Dr. Özlem Uzundemir

Literary Theory I Office Hours: Tue. 14:20-16:10

Thu. 15:20-16:10

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course provides a foundation for Literary Theory II. The aim of these courses is to give students a clear understanding of some of the issues involved in interpreting literature today, through asking basic questions: What is an author, and how do we recognize a text’s “intention”? What is a text, and how do we locate its meaning? What is its relation to reality, and how do we know what “reality” is? What criteria or standards are there for deciding what a genre or a style is, what good or bad literature is, or high and low literature? How do we separate fiction from non-fiction, and what is the relation between a literary text and history? What is literature, and why study it? Students will be required to read original, primary, theoretical and critical texts (in English translation), and not rely on second-hand introductions or summaries. The course is a survey of literary theory from classical Greek and Roman understandings of “literature” and “language,” through medieval and Renaissance interpretive traditions, to neo-classical, Romantic, and Victorian theory.

**TEXTBOOK:**

This course has no textbook. Photocopies will be provided.

**COURSE REQIREMENTS AND MEANS OF EVALUATION:**

Students are expected to attend all classes, prepared, and on time. Required texts must be brought to each class, and mobile phones should be switched off. Students’ contribution to and participation in class discussions will be taken into consideration in assigning their final grades.

The course percentage breakdown is as follows:

1. 30% class participation and quizzes
2. 35% midterm exam
3. 35% final exam

READING LIST FOR ELL 391

**2019-2020 FALL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week 1:** | Introduction: what is criticism and what is theory? |
| **Week 2:** | Heraclitus  Plato, *Republic,* Book 7 &10  Plato, “Ion” |
| **Week 3:** | Aristotle, *Poetics* |
| **Week 4:** | Analysis of Sophocles’s *Oedipus Rex*  Horace, *The Art of Poetry* |
| **Week 5:** | Longinus, *On the Sublime* |
| **Week 6:** | Sidney, from *The Defence of Poesy* |
| **Week 7:** | Pope, “An Essay on Criticism”  Johnson, Rambler No: 4 “On Fiction” |
| **Week 8:** | **MIDTERM EXAM** |
| **Week 9:** | Kant, “Critique of Judgment” |
| **Week 10:** | Wordsworth, from Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*  Analysis of poems by Wordsworth  Coleridge, from *Biographia Literaria* |
| **Week 11:** | Keats, from *The Letters*  Shelley, from *A Defence of Poetry* |
| **Week 12:** | Analysis of poems by Keats and Shelley |
| **Week 13:** | Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense”    Arnold, from “The Function of Criticism at the Present Time” |
| **Week 14:** | T. S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” |