ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**2023-2024 FALL SEMESTER**

ELL 391 Dr. Özlem Uzundemir

Literary Theory I Office Hours: Tue. 14:00-16:00

Thu. 10:00-11:00

**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 and Romantic theory. In this survey, thinkers whose writings formed a basis for the theories in the 20th century will be discussed as well.

**TEXTBOOK:**

The textbook for this course is *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*.

**COURSE REQIREMENTS AND MEANS OF EVALUATION:**

Students are expected to attend all classes and on time. If they miss class, it is their responsibility to get information about the lecture. Students should read the assigned texts before coming to class, they should write summaries in their notebooks, and bring the text and the notebook to class. They should take notes during lectures and switch off their mobile phones. **Students who are found to have committed cheating in an examination or plagiarism on an assignment will fail the examination or assignment.** 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. 10% class participation
2. 20% quizzes, assignments and in-class writing activities
3. 35% midterm exam
4. 35% final exam

READING LIST FOR ELL 391

**2023-2024 FALL SEMESTER**

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| **Week 1:** | Introduction: what is criticism and what is theory?  Introduction to mimetic theory |
| **Week 2:** | Heraclitus  Plato, *Republic,* Book 7 |
| **Week 3:** | Plato, *Republic,* Book 10  Plato, “Ion” |
| **Week 4:** | Aristotle, from *Poetics:* I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XIV, XV |
| **Week 5:** | Analysis of Sophocles’s *Oedipus Rex*  Horace, from *Art of Poetry*: Unity and Simplicity of Form, Dramatic Characters, The End of Poetry, The Importance to the Poet…  Longinus, from *On The Sublime:* I,V, VI, VII |
| **Week 6:** | Sidney, from *The Defence of Poesy*: “The Poet, Poetry”, “Answer to Charges against Poetry”  Pope, from “An Essay on Criticism”: Part I |
| **Week 7:** | MIDTERM EXAM |
| **Week 8:** | Kant, from *Critique of Judgment*: Introduction, Book 1 (1, 2, 6, 7), Book 2 (23, 43, 49) |
| **Week 9:** | Novalis, “Monologue”  Introduction to expressive theory |
| **Week 10:** | Wordsworth, from Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*  Coleridge, from *Biographia Literaria* |
| **Week 11:** | Shelley, from *A Defence of Poetry*  Analysis of poems by the Romantic poets |
| **Week 12:** | Marx and Engels, from *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*,  from *The Communist Manifesto,*  from *Capital*, “The Fetishism of Commodities”,  from *Grundrisse* |
| **Week 13:** | Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense”  Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams:* from Ch. V “The Material and Source of Dreams” |
| **Week 14:** | T. S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent”  Revision |