

ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
2026-2027 FALL SEMESTER

ELL 391
Literary Theory I

Özlem Uzundemir, PhD
Office Hours: Tue. 14:00-16:00
Thu. 14:00-15:00

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 REQUIREMENTS AND MEANS OF EVALUATION:

100% attendance is recommended at all classes. Students have to attend at least 80% of the classes. Students are expected to read the assigned texts before coming to class, and they should bring the text and a notebook to class. They should take notes during lectures and switch off their mobile phones. Class participating is vital for success in this class.

Students who are found to have committed cheating in an examination or plagiarism on an assignment will fail the examination. Discrepancy between examples of the student's writing, suspected plagiarism or unethical use of AI technology will be evaluated by the professor and the department academic board, and measures will be taken accordingly. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. **Further action will also be taken if necessary. Please see university regulations.**

The course percentage breakdown is as follows:

- a. 20% quizzes, assignments and in-class writing activities
- b. 40% midterm exam (November 11)
- c. 40% final exam

READING LIST FOR ELL 391
2026-2027 FALL SEMESTER

Week 1:	Introduction: what is criticism and what is theory? Introduction to mimetic theory
Week 2:	Heraclitus Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 7
Week 3:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 10 Plato, "Ion"
Week 4:	Aristotle, from <i>Poetics</i> : I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XIV, XV
Week 5:	Analysis of <i>Oedipus Rex</i> Horace, from <i>Art of Poetry</i> : Unity and Simplicity of Form, Dramatic Characters, The End of Poetry, The Importance to the Poet...
Week 6:	Longinus, from <i>On The Sublime</i> : I, V, VI, VII Pope, from "An Essay on Criticism": Part I
Week 7:	REVISION AND MIDTERM EXAM (NOV. 11)
Week 8:	Kant, from <i>Critique of Judgment</i> : Introduction, Book 1 (1, 2, 6, 7), Book 2 (23, 43, 49)
Week 9:	Wollstonecraft, from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> Novalis, "Monologue"
Week 10:	Introduction to expressive theory Wordsworth, from Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> Coleridge, from <i>Biographia Literaria</i>
Week 11:	Shelley, from <i>A Defence of Poetry</i> Analysis of poems by the Romantic poets
Week 12:	Marx and Engels, from <i>Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844</i> , from <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , from <i>Capital</i> , "The Fetishism of Commodities", from <i>Grundrisse</i>
Week 13:	Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense" Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> : from Ch. V "The Material and Source of Dreams"
Week 14:	Revision

