

ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
MA/PhD PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES
2026-2027 FALL SEMESTER

ELL 580/680
Concepts in Theory and Criticism/Literary Theory I

Özlem Uzundemir, PhD
Office Hours: Tue. 14:00–16:00
Fri. 10:00–11:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course surveys a range of trajectories in theory and criticism from the classical period to the contemporary, with a focus on late 20th-century and recent developments that are essential for understanding and engaging in contemporary interpretation and analysis of texts. Areas covered include classical, Enlightenment and romantic theories, Anglo-American and Russian formalism, structuralism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, historiography, marxisms, reader-response/reception theory, poststructuralism and deconstruction, postmodernisms, feminisms and gender theories, theories of race, ethnicity and nationalism, postcolonial theory, new historicisms, ecocriticism, cultural theory and ideological critique, and posthumanism.

Readings include both theoretical texts and exemplary analyses; the focus is on understanding theories as modes of questioning how meanings are produced in the process of reading, and not as formulaic “approaches” to be “applied.” Course assessment is based primarily on examinations and critical analyses of texts.

REFERENCES:

Adams, Hazard, and Leroy Searle, eds. *Critical Theory Since 1965*. Tallahassee: Florida State UP, 1989.
Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1983.
Fry, Paul H. *Theory of Literature*. Yale UP, 2012.
Leitch, Vincent B. eds, et al. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. 3rd ed.
Newton, K. M., ed. *Twentieth Century Literary Theory: A Reader*. 2nded. New York: St. Martin’s P, 1997.
Wagh, Patricia. *Literary Theory and Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND MEANS OF EVALUATION:

Graduate students are required to attend all classes punctually. Students have to attend at least 80% of the classes. Those who do not meet this requirement will not be permitted to take the final examination.

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% in-class writing activities
- b. 40% midterm exam
- c. 40% final exam

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR ELL 580/680
2026-2027 FALL SEMESTER**

Week 1:	Introduction: what is criticism and what is theory?; review of previous literary and art theories Mimetic Theory Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Book 7; Book 10; "Ion" (<i>Norton Anthology</i>) Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> (<i>Norton Anthology</i>) Longinus, from <i>On Sublimity</i> (<i>Norton Anthology</i>)
Week 2:	Expressive Theory Wordsworth, Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> (<i>Norton Anthology</i>) Shelley, <i>A Defence of Poetry</i> (<i>Norton Anthology</i>) Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense" Russian Formalism Shklovsky, "Art as Technique"
Week 3:	Bakhtin, "Discourse in the Novel"; from <i>Rabelais and His World</i> New Criticism: Brooks, "The Formalist Critic" Sample Essay: Brooks, "Keats's Sylvan Historian: History without Footnotes"
Week 4:	Phenomenology and Reader-Response: Poulet, "Phenomenology of Reading" Iser, "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach" Fish, "How to Recognize a Poem When You See One"
Week 5:	Structuralism: de Saussure, from <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>, Ch. 1 Barthes, from <i>Mythologies</i>
Week 6:	From Structuralism to Poststructuralism: Barthes, "The Death of the Author" Foucault, "What is an Author?"
Week 7:	Post-Structuralism and Deconstruction: Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"; "Différance"
Week 8:	Sample Essay: Belsey, "Hamlet's Dilemma"

	Postmodernism Baudrillard, from <i>Simulacra and Simulations</i>
Week 9:	REVISION AND MIDTERM EXAM
Week 10:	Psychoanalysis: Lacan, "The Mirror Stage"; "Of Structure as an Inmixing of an Otherness Prerequisite to Any Subject Whatever" Sample Essay: Lacan, "Desire and the Interpretation of Desire in <i>Hamlet</i>:" "The Object Ophelia"
Week 11:	Marxisms: Kojève, "Introduction to the Reading of Hegel" Althusser, from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" Feminisms: Foucault, from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
Week 12:	Irigaray, "The Power of Discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine"; "Women on the Market" Haraway, "A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s" Gender Studies: Michel Foucault, "The History of Sexuality" Butler, "Critically Queer"; "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"
Week 13:	Postcolonialism: Said, "Crisis" <i>Orientalism</i> Bhabha, "The Other Question"; "Of Mimicry and Man" from <i>The Location of Culture</i>
Week 14:	Ecocriticism: Warren and Cheney, "Ecological Feminism and Ecosystem Ecology" Posthumanism: Braidotti, from <i>The Posthuman</i>