

# CL 307.01

## Literary Theory and Criticism III

### Fall 2023 Syllabus

(There may be changes before the semester starts – Please check again later!)

Instructor: Dr. Aylin Alkaç – [alkacayl@boun.edu.tr](mailto:alkacayl@boun.edu.tr)

Office hours: Wednesday 14:00, Friday 16:00 (by appointment)

#### **Course Description:**

In the last part of the literary theory and criticism course, we will be surveying the major schools of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since the time period covered is far shorter compared to the earlier parts of the course, the readings are grouped more thematically than chronologically although such grouping is somewhat artificial as these schools of thought, if they may be called as such, cannot be easily thought as completely distinct from one another. The main objective is to provide you with a broad view of the contemporary debates on reading and interpreting literary texts.

#### **Course Requirements:**

Not all the selections are easy readings and it is crucial that you come to class having read the assigned readings for the week. Attendance at all lectures is expected. If for some reason you must miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain information about the lecture, any alterations that may have been made to the syllabus in regard to forthcoming reading and writing assignments.

The deadlines for assignments will be announced at the beginning of the semester, allowing you ample time to complete them. Therefore, no late submissions will be accepted – unless you have a legitimate officially acceptable and/or documentable excuse to miss the deadline. Please contact me as soon as possible when you miss a deadline and if you have an excuse to find out how you can make up for it.

Please see the secondary reading list below for additional help in expanding your understanding and knowledge of the specific terms, concepts and critics. Checking out at least their introduction chapters will be useful in putting everything into perspective. There is a link to the google drive for the books on Moodle.

#### **Course Grade Assessment:**

Participation	10 %
Short assignments	15 % x 2 = 30 %
Midterm	30 %
Final	30 %

## **READING SCHEDULE:**

Sept. 27 – Introduction: An overview of major concepts and arguments till mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and an introduction to what comes next

### **Neo-Marxism/ Cultural materialism**

Sept. 29 – Althusser, from *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses*

Oct. 4 – Williams, from *Marxism and Literature*

Oct. 6 – Jameson, from *The Political Unconscious*

Oct. 11 – cont.

### **Post-Freudian Psychoanalytical Criticism**

Oct. 13 – Lacan, “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience” & “The Signification of the Phallus”

Oct. 18 – Lacan, “The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious”

Oct. 20 – Kristeva, “The Semiotic and the Symbolic”

### **from Structuralism to Post-Structuralism**

Oct. 25 – Barthes, from *Work to Text* & from *Mythologies*

Oct. 27 – Barthes, “The Death of the Author”, Foucault, “What is an Author?”

Nov. 1 – cont.

Nov. 3 – MIDTERM (Class hour)

### **From Post-Structuralism to Postmodernism**

Nov. 8 – Derrida, “Structure, Sign and Play”

Nov. 10 – Derrida, “Letter to a Japanese Friend”

Nov. 15 – Deleuze and Guattari, from *A Thousand Plateaus*

Nov. 17 – Lyotard, “Defining the Postmodern” from *The Postmodern Condition*

Nov. 22 – Baudrillard, from *Simulations*

Nov. 24 – cont.

### **Feminism / Race / Ethnicity**

Nov. 29 – Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”

Dec. 1 – Irigaray, “The Power of Discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine” & “Women on the Market”

Dec. 6 – Hooks, “Postmodern Blackness”

Dec. 8 – Smith, “Toward a Black Feminist Criticism”

### **Postcolonialism**

Dec. 13 – Said, from *Orientalism*

Dec. 15 – Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man”; Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

### **Gender and Queer**

Dec. 20 – Butler, from *Gender Trouble* “Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversions”

Dec. 22 – Sedgwick, “Queer and Now” & “Epistemology of the Closet”

### **Secondary Readings:**

Ashcroft, Bill, et al. *Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies*. Routledge, 2001.

Connor, Steven. *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodernism*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2001.

Ellmann, Maud, editor. *Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism*. Routledge, 2013.

Humm, Maggie. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Feminist Literary Criticism*. Routledge, Taylor Et Francis Group, 1994.

Moore-Gilbert, B. J., et al., editors. *Postcolonial Criticism*. Routledge, 2013.

Mulhern, Francis, editor. *Contemporary Marxist Literary Criticism*. Taylor & Francis Ltd, 2013.

Plain, Gill, and Susan Sellers, editors. *A History of Feminist Literary Criticism*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Sim, Stuart, editor. *The Routledge Companion to Postmodernism*. Routledge, 2001.

Wright, Elizabeth. *Psychoanalytic Criticism*. Taylor and Francis, 2013.