

EL591.01 Literary Theory I / Syllabus / Fall 2014-2015

T 9:00-12:00 TB 480

Instructor: Matthew Gumpert

Introduction. The first part of a two-semester survey of the history of literary theory and criticism in the West. Introduction to Literary Theory I, like its companion course next semester, assumes there is no such thing as "simply" reading a literary text, outside of theory. It also assumes that modern theoretical approaches to literature, even when they claim to constitute a break with the practices of the past, are inescapably rooted in those prior practices. Such approaches represent distinct ways in which *meaning* in the text has been located or defined. We will examine these strategies for pursuing or framing meaning as historically and culturally determined methodologies. Literary Theory I offers the advanced student of literature an introduction to literary theory and criticism from classical antiquity to the beginning of the 20th century, from Plato to Freud. The material covered in this class thus constitutes the foundation of modern critical theory.

Course Materials. Most of the required readings for Literary Criticism I are in the *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (available on-line, and on reserve at the library). David Grene's translation of Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* is also required reading for this course, and can be obtained from Doğa Kırtasiye-Fotokopi. Additional texts will be made available during the course of the semester.

Grading. Midterm Paper 20%; Presentation 20%; Class Performance and Short Papers 25%; Final Paper 35%

Reading Schedule.

(NA = *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*)

Week 1 (23 Sept): Classical Greek Criticism

Frege, "On Sense and Reference"; Plato, *Ion* (NA 37-48); *Republic* 3, 4, 10 (NA 49-80); *Phaedrus* (NA 81-85); *Cratylus*

Week 2 (30 Sept): Classical Greek Criticism

Aristotle, *Poetics* (NA 90-117); *On Interpretation*; *Rhetoric* (NA 117-21); Gorgias, *Encomium on Helen* (NA 30-33)

F 3 October (after 13:00) – Tu 7 October: Kurban Bayramı

Week 3 (9 Oct): Hellenistic/Roman Criticism

Longinus, *On the Sublime* (NA 138-54); Callimachus, *Aetia*; Horace, *Art of Poetry* (NA 124-35); *Epistles* 2.1 ("Letter to Augustus"); Quintilian, *Institutio oratoria* (NA 157-71); Cicero, *De oratore*; Seneca the Younger, *Moral Epistles*; Aulus Gellius 9.9 (on Homer, Theocritus, and Virgil)

Week 4 (14 Oct): Late Antiquity/Early Christian Era

Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine* (NA 188-92); *The Trinity* (NA 192-96); *Confessions*; Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*; Paul, 1 Corinthians; Macrobius, *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio* (NA 198-201)

Week 5 (21 Oct): Medieval Criticism/Scholasticism

Hugh of St. Victor, *Didascalicon* (NA 204-11); Aquinas, *Summa theologica* (NA 243-46); Alcuin, *Rhetoric*; Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria nova* (NA 229-40); Dante Alighieri, *Il Convivio* (NA 249-50); *Letter to Can Grande Scala* (NA 251-52); *Inferno* 4.100-102; Boccaccio, *Genealogy of the Gentile Gods* (NA 255-62); Petrarch, *Letters*

Tu 28 Oct (after 13:00) - W 29 Oct: Cumhuriyet Bayramı

Week 6 (28 Oct): Early Modern Criticism/Humanism

Sidney, *Defence of Poesy* (NA 326-60); Du Bellay, *The Defense and Illustration of the French Language* (NA 281-90); Erasmus, *Ciceronianus*; Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*; Rabelais, *Pantagruel* 8 (Letter from Gargantua to Pantagruel); Bacon, *Advancement of Learning*

Week 7 (4 Nov): Neoclassical Criticism

Johnson, *The Lives of the Poets* (NA 480-83); *Rasselas* (NA 466-67); "Preface to Shakespeare" (NA 468-80); Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (NA 381-85); Pope, *An Essay on Criticism* (NA 441-58); Vico, *The New Science* (NA 401-16)

Week 8 (11 Nov): Aesthetics

Hume "Of the Standard of Taste" (NA 486-99); Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (NA 504-35); Lessing, *Laocoön* (NA 554-70); Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man* (NA 573-82); Hegel, *Lectures on Fine Art* (NA 636-55)

Week 9 (18 Nov): Romantic Criticism

Wordsworth, *Preface to the Second Edition of "Lyrical Ballads"* (NA 648-68); Coleridge, *The Statesman's Manual* (NA 672-74), *Biographia Literaria* (NA 674-82); Shelley, *Defense of Poetry* (NA 699-717)

Week 10 (25 Nov): Victorian Criticism/Symbolism

Poe, "The Philosophy of Composition" (NA 742-50); Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life" (NA 792-802); Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (NA 806-25); "Culture and Anarchy" (NA 825-32) "The Study of Poetry" (R); Wilde, "The Critic as Artist" (NA)

Week 11 (2 Dec): Marx/Marxist Criticism

Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* (NA 764-67); *The German Ideology* (NA 767-69); *The Communist Manifesto* (NA 769-73); *Grundrisse* (NA 773-74); Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (NA 774-75); *Capital* (NA 776-87)

Week 12 (9 Dec): Nietzsche

Nietzsche, *On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense* (NA 874-84); *The Will to Power; The Birth of Tragedy* (NA 884-95)

Week 13 (16 Dec): Freud/Psychoanalytic Criticism

Freud, selections from *Some Elementary Lessons in Psycho-Analysis*, *The Ego and the Id*, *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*, *An Outline of Psycho-Analysis*, *New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis*, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (NA 919-29); "Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming"; "The Uncanny"

Week 14 (23 Dec): Freud/Psychoanalytic Criticism

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (NA 919-29); "Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming"; "The Uncanny"