



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

EL380

LITERARY CRITICISM

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

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| Unit code | EL380 | | |
| Unit name | Literary Criticism | | |
| Associated higher education awards | Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) | | |
| Duration | One semester | | |
| Level | Advanced | | |
| Core/Elective | Required for major in English | | |
| Weighting | Unit credit points: | 10 | |
| | Course credit points: | Bachelor of Education (Secondary) | 320 |
| | | Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) | 320 |
| Delivery mode | Face-to-face on-site | | |
| Student workload | <i>Face-to-face on site</i> | | |
| | Contact hours | 30 hours | |
| | Reading, study and assignment preparation | 120 hours | |
| | TOTAL | 150 hours | |
| | Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week. | | |
| Prerequisites/ co-requisites/ restrictions | <i>Prerequisite:</i> 40 credit points of English units, including 20 credit points at 200-level | | |
| Rationale | <p>Since classical times, theories of literary appreciation and criticism have been propounded to offer explanations of the ways in which literature should be written and interpreted. This long tradition of criticism includes some of the most important thinkers and writers of the Western literary tradition, including Aristotle, Dante, Sidney, Dryden, Coleridge, Arnold, James and Eliot. In the twentieth century, a wider group of professional literary critics and theorists have also played an important part in extending the debate over the nature, meaning and functions of literature.</p> <p>This unit endeavours to serve three main purposes in introducing students to the broad field of literary criticism. First, it raises, in a systematic way, the fundamental issues of the nature and interpretation of a variety of forms of literature. Second, it provides an overview of the historical development of literary criticism, with particular emphasis on the twentieth-century. Third, it highlights the critical reflections of those writers who have tried to interpret literature within the context of Christian belief, including Sir Philip Sidney, TS Eliot, JRR Tolkien, Flannery O'Connor, and Dorothy L Sayers. These objectives will serve to provide a basis for examination of the fundamental questions arising in regard to the development of a Christian approach to literary criticism.</p> <p>Literary criticism is the basis of all literary study, with an emphasis placed on the philosophy of literature and of literary theory. Students of English are obliged, therefore, to know and understand the issues involved in the questions: What is 'Literature'? What is 'Literary Theory'? How did Literary Theory evolve in English? Who were the chief theorists in English and what were their theories? Who were the Christian theorists?</p> | | |
| Prescribed text(s) | <p>Percy, S. (2013). <i>Literature, Literary Theory, and Literary Criticism: A History from a Christian Perspective</i>. Preston, VIC: Challenge Press.</p> <p>Selected readings will be available via the Moodle™ site for this unit.</p> | | |

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| <p>Recommended readings</p> | <p>Books</p> <p>Bressler, C.E. (2006). <i>Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice</i>. (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.</p> <p>Bertens, J.W. (2013). <i>Literary Theory: The Basics</i>. (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.</p> <p>Cascardi, A. (2014). <i>The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and Philosophy</i>. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Damrosh, D. (Ed.) (2014). <i>World Literature in Theory</i>. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.</p> <p>Leitch, V.B. (Ed.) (2010). <i>The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism</i>. (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Norton.</p> <p>Lewis, C.S. (1992). <i>An Experiment in Criticism</i>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Sayers, D.L. (1987). <i>The Mind of the Maker</i>. (reprinted ed.). San Francisco, USA: Harper San Francisco.</p> <p>Journals and Periodicals</p> <p><i>Analysis</i></p> <p><i>Journal of Literary Theory</i></p> <p><i>Madison Journal of Literary Criticism</i></p> <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV).</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at http://www.biblegateway.com. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p> |
| <p>Specialist resource requirements</p> | <p>Nil</p> |
| <p>Content</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the unit: definitions; worldview underpinnings; history of literary criticism: the classical age 2. Literary theories and Christian perspectives 3. The Middle Ages 4. The Renaissance 5. The Metaphysicals, the Elizabethans, and the seventeenth century 6. The eighteenth century 7. The Romantics 8. The Victorians 9. Rejection of neo-classicism; theorists of society and culture; writers/literary theorists 10. The twentieth century |
| <p>Learning outcomes</p> | <p>On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critiqued core issues in the interpretation and appreciation of literature; 2. Analysed and evaluated the history of literary criticism and the key debates which have shaped it; 3. Interrogated the leading writers and works of literary criticism in addressing issues of literary theory; 4. Compared and contrasted differing theoretical approaches to literature; 5. Critically reflected upon the Christian tradition of literary criticism and identified its main advocates; 6. Applied worldview and philosophical perspectives, including a Christian worldview, to the reading and interpretation of selected literary texts; and 7. Communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard: with special attention to design elements, grammars, usage, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation. |

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| Assessment tasks | <p>Task 1: Research Paper</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 50%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-7</p> <p>Assessed: Week 10</p> <p>Task 2: Analytical Essay</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 2500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 50%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-7</p> <p>Assessed: Week 14</p> |
| Unit summary | <p>Literary criticism goes beyond interpretation (finding the meaning) of the literary texts to consideration of their literary value and the passing of judgment on that value. This unit investigates the historical development of literary criticism in Europe (with particular emphasis on English literary criticism and on twentieth-century and twenty-first-century literary criticism), while examining the theories of various prominent theorists throughout the ages.</p> |

SAMPLE