Jerash University

Department of English Language and Literature

First Semester 2020/2021

Literary Criticism 0102460

Instructor: Dr. Fuad Abdul Muttaleb

Rank: Professor

On-line: Venue

Date and Time: Sundays - Tuesdays (02:00-3:30)

This course aims at introducing the students to English literary criticism and the contemporary critical tendencies. More specifically, it deals with the history of literary criticism in classical antiquity ( Plato, Aristotle, Horace, Longinus and other important figures) and their influence upon English as well as European critics, starting from the Renaissance Period until modern times, with an emphasis on English critics and theoreticians, including: Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Jonson, John Dryden, Alexander Pope, Joseph Addison, Dr. Samuel Johnson, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Mathew Arnold, Henry James, T.S. Eliot and other important figures of the 20th century. Then, it only refers to the major modern critical movements of the 20th century, i.e., New Criticism, Structuralism, Psychoanalysis, Russian Formalism, Feminism, Echo- criticism, Post- structuralism, Post- colonialism, postmodernism, Reader- Response Theory, Deconstruction and other major critical tendencies that lasted until the beginning of the 21st. century. Teaching the theoretical material is often achieved with an eye on the possibility of applying it on literary texts. Final meeting will be dedicated for writing academic critical essay.

The study of the course extends for 16 weeks, consisting of lectures, presentations, and discussions of the above- mentioned English critics and writers, their works and their contributions to criticism and literary theory. English, old and modern, critical movements and thinkers, key concepts and principles are given also special attention. The students' works are evaluated through their performance, attendance, and participation together with a term paper (25 Marks), a mid-term exam (25 Marks), and a final exam (50 Marks).

Required Texts:

1. Richard Dutton, *Introduction to the study of English Literary Criticism* (Longman, 2001).
2. Charles E. Bressler: *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to theory and Practice* (Prentice Hall Books, 1993)
3. All available relevant critical literature produced on these critics and their works should be closely consulted in this course.

* Weekly Meetings:

Week 1: Introduction to the study of Literary Criticism/Literary Theory

Week 2: Classical Literary Criticism; Plato

Week 3: Aristotle

Week 4: Horace

Week 5: Longinus

Week 6: Renaissance English Literary Criticism (Sir Philip Sidney …)

Week 7: Neo-classical Criticism (Dryden, Pope, and Dr. Johnson ...)

Week 8: Midterm & Evaluation

Week 9: Romantic Criticism (Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelly ...)

Week 10: Modern Literary Criticism: the influence of Darwin, Marx, and Freud ...)

Week 11: 19th Century Criticism: Matthew Arnold

Week 12: Henry James

Week 13: T.S. Eliot and New Criticism

Week 14: Writing Critical Essay

Week 15: General Revision & Term Papers

Week 16: Final Exams

Evaluation of the students’ performance in this course will be as follows:

- 25 marks on attendance, participation in the discussions, presentations, and writing a term paper.

- 25 marks on the midterm exam.

- 50 marks on the final exam.