



Criticism Course Descriptor

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| Course Title | Criticism | Faculty | English |
| Course Code | NCHEN405 | Course Leader | Dr Daniel Swift |
| Credit Points | 30 | Teaching Period | Michaelmas and Hilary |
| FHEQ Level | 4 | Date Approved | June 2020 |
| Compulsory/ Optional | Compulsory | | |
| Pre-requisites | None | | |
| Co-requisites | None | | |

COURSE SUMMARY

English students will take Criticism throughout their first year, and it is a course designed to teach them the building blocks or basic tools of advanced literary criticism. The lectures and tutorials in Michaelmas term are focused upon close reading of a variety of literary forms, with an emphasis upon the identification and analysis of rhetoric. In Hilary term, the focus shifts to literary theory, and students will encounter and discuss a series of influential literary theories and theorists, including the works of Roland Barthes, Virginia Woolf, Judith Butler, T. S. Eliot, and Edward Said.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to:

- Develop skills in close reading.
- Develop familiarity with various forms of literature: poetry, drama, the novel, and political oratory.
- Provide an understanding of rhetorical techniques and tropes.
- Introduce students to a range of theoretical approaches to literature, and make them conscious of their own critical and theoretical practices.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students should have:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

K3a an understanding of the particular characteristics of verbal art

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC SKILLS

S1a skills necessary for the close reading of literary texts with appropriate vocabulary

S3a awareness of a range of literary-critical methodologies and self-awareness with regard to their own literary-critical methodologies

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

T2a skills of analysis of rhetorical texts and performances (literary or otherwise)

T2a awareness of the distinct nature of different kinds of use of language (literary or otherwise)

T3a skills of memory and note-taking (developed through the use of film in Sections A and B of the examination)

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 30 x large-group hours
- 3.5 x tutorial hours (individual or group tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 300.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Communication skills
- Presentation skills
- Analytical skills

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback in the form of discussion during tutorials and written comments upon essays.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in two forms:

| AE: | Assessment Activity | Weighting (%) | Online submission | Duration | Length |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Take-home examination | 50 | Yes | 24 hours | N/A |
| 2 | Examination | 50 | No | 2 hours 15 minutes | N/A |

AE1 will consist of a number of questions from which the student will have the choice of answering a specified number. In AE2 the students must answer all questions. Both examinations and the written assignments will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis); and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings, and reports) and through generic internal examiners' reports, both of which are posted on the College's VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

Barry, Peter, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (Manchester University Press, 1995)

Barthes, Roland, "The Death of the Author" (1967)

Fussell, Paul, *Poetic Meter and Poetic Form* (Random House, 1979)

Richards, I. A., *Practical Criticism* (1929)

Woolf, Virginia, *A Room of One's Own* (1929)

INDICATIVE TOPICS

- Reading poetry
- Reading drama
- Prosody
- Rhetorical devices and techniques
- Feminist criticism
- Psycho-analytical criticism

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| Approved by: Academic Board | | | | | |
| Version number | Date approved | Date published | Owner | Location | Proposed next review date |
| 2.0 | June 2021 | June 2021 | Catherine Brown | 1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE | April 2025 |
| 1.0 | June 2020 | June 2020 | Catherine Brown | 1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE | April 2025 |
| Modifications (As per AQF4) | | | | | |
| Version number | Date approved | Date published | Modification (including category number) | | |
| 2.0 | June 2021 | June 2021 | Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy' | | |