**Course Material Bundle**

**Islamia University Bahawalpur**

***Subject:*** *Literary Criticism*

***Course Code:***

***Class:*** *MA English Language & Literature (6th Semester)*

***Course Teacher:*** *Ms. Sadia Qureshi*

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**Course Outline Document:**

This course introduces some of the most vital debates in the tradition of English literary criticism from Plato and Aristotle in the Greek times to T. S. Eliot in early twentieth century. Equipped with the ability of analyzing and appreciating this literary tradition through all these centuries, the students would be able to grasp arguments in classical and romantic schools of literary criticism, represented by critics like Samuel Johnson, Mathew Arnold, T. S. Eliot, and F. R. Leavis on the one hand, and Philip Sidney, Wordsworth, and Coleridge on the other. That would help students be conversant with ‘practical criticism’ / ‘close reading’ and ideas-led’ criticism respectively. By concentrating on this rich canonical tradition, students will be able to learn how each generation of critics has responded to critical theorizing and creative works of not only their own times but also the ages preceding them. What are likely to excite and engage the students are debates like Plato’s theory of imitation and his standpoint on poets, challenged not only by his contemporary and disciple, Aristotle, but also by Philip Sidney and others? Similarly, the import of Mathew Arnold’s view one needs to study poetry of at least two different cultures, the more different the better will be transformative for students of literature. Moreover, this course will ground the students in familiar critical concepts and thus prepare them to grasp the complexities of literary and cultural theory in later semesters.

**Course Objectives**:

It is an intensive course in literary criticism focusing on the following aspects:

**1**. It would prepare the learners of literature and language to understand the historical background to literary criticism, exploring.  
**2**. Its developmental changes from Plato to T.S Eliot.  
**3**. It would focus on the poetic and dramatic forms in order to highlight some significant trends and concepts in world literature in general and English literature in particular.  
**4**. It would also provide a brief introduction to the contemporary literary theories.

**Course Contents**

**The Greek Critics**  
Aristotle (394-322 BC): The Poetics (c. 335 BC)  
**Renaissance to Eighteenth Century Critics**Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586): An Apology for Poetry (1595)  
 John Dryden (1631-1700): Essay on Dramatic Poesy (1668)  
 Samuel Johnson (1709-1784): “From Milton” (1779-81)  
**The Romantic Critics**  
 William Wordsworth (1770-1850): Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1798-1802)  
S.T. Coleridge (1772-1834): Biographia Literaria (Chapters xiv, xv, xvi, xvii) (1817)  
**The Victorian Critics**  
Matthew Arnold (1822-1888): The Study of Poetry (1880)  
**Modern Critics**  
Function of Criticism at the Present Time (1865)  
Walter Pater (1839-1894): Appreciations: “On Style” (1895) (Optional)  
T.S. Eliot (1888-1965): “Tradition & the Individual Talent” 68(1921)

**A Brief Introduction to Contemporary Literary Theories**

**Recommended Readings:**

Barry, P. Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1995  
Booker, Keith M. A Practical Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism. New York: Longman Publishers, 1996.  
 Kamran, Robina and Farrukh Zad. Ed. A Quintessence of Literary Criticism. National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad.  
Leitch, Vincent B. (General Editor). The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism. New York & London: W. W. Norton and Company, 2001 (or later editions  
Lodge, David. Ed. Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader. Longman, 1988.  
Newton, K. M. ed. Twentieth Century literary Theory: A Reader. Second Edition. New York: St. Martin‘s, 1998 (or later editions) Selected Terminology from any Contemporary Dictionary of Literary Terms.  
Selden, R. & Widdowson P. A Reader‘s Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory (3rd Edition). New York: Harvester, 1993.

**Text Books included in Terms respectively:**

Aristotle (394-322 BC): The Poetics (c. 335 BC)

John Dryden (1631-1700): Essay on Dramatic Poesy (1668)

William Wordsworth (1770-1850): Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1798-1802)

Matthew Arnold (1822-1888): The Study of Poetry (1880)

**Major Topics of *The Poetics*:**

1. Aristotle's Theory of Tragedy
2. Aristotle's Concept of Ideal Tragic Hero
3. Importance of Plot in Tragedy
4. Aristotle's Concept of Imitation
5. Aristotle's Concept of Catharsis
6. Short Q/A & MCQ’s
7. Important Terms described in Poetics

**Text Book with Basic Reading Course material:**

The Poetics by Aristotle online Text <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262224737_Aristotle's_Poetics>

**Reference Books/ Supplementary Course Reading Material:**

<https://www.gradesaver.com/aristotles-poetics/study-guide/summary>

**Lecture notes/Set of Videos/Audios explaining the topic:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6fxfvfhymQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rVbVRD6vSI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BWPREP_8Xg>

**Major Topics of John Dryden (1631-1700): *Essay on Dramatic Poesy (1668*):**

1. Discuss about the form and content in the Essay on dramatic Poesy.
2. Discuss Dryden's *Of Dramatic Poesy*as a survey of contemporary critical schools.
3. Why did Dr. Johnson considered Dryden as the father of English Criticism?
4. Short Q/A & MCQ’s

**Text Book with Basic Reading Course material:**

Not available

**Reference Books/ Supplementary Course Reading Material:**

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69377/an-essay-of-dramatic-poesy>

<https://englishsummary.com/essay-dramatic-poesy-dryden-summary/>

<https://www.bachelorandmaster.com/criticaltheories/essay-on-dramatic-poesy.html#.XoTN3PkzbIU>

<https://www.slideshare.net/HemaGoswami1/four-characters-in-drydens-essay-of-dramatic-poesy>

**Lecture notes/Set of Videos/Audios explaining the topic:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zml8gxDP30Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SNW4FKuMmg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APsvXBzEXJ0>

**Major Topics of William Wordsworth (1770-1850): Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1798-1802):**

1. Main Features and Concept of writing Preface to Lyrical Ballads
2. Words Worth Theory of Poetic Assumption
3. How poetry and Science are opposite to each other? Discuss in the light of Preface to Lyrical Ballads.
4. Discuss Preface to Lyrical Ballads with reference to Romantic Movement.
5. What are the essential qualities of a romantic poet discussed in Preface to Lyrical Ballads?
6. Short Q/A & MCQ’s

**Text Book with Basic Reading Course material:**

Preface to Lyrical Ballads online text

<https://www.english.upenn.edu/~jenglish/Courses/Spring2001/040/preface1802.html>

**Reference Books/ Supplementary Course Reading Material:**

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Preface-to-the-Lyrical-Ballads/main-ideas/>

<https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/what-main-concept-preface-lyrical-ballads-by-356289>

<https://www.studocu.com/en-us/document/studocu-university/studocu-summary-library-en/summaries/preface-to-lyrical-ballads-analysiss/1042738/view>

**Lecture notes/Set of Videos/Audios explaining the topic:**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/william-wordsworth/0/steps/9842>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPtAXTYyWf0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foA23YxjcpE>

**Major Topics of Matthew Arnold (1822-1888): The Study of Poetry (1880):**

1. Discuss Matthew Arnold as a Victorian Poet.
2. Arnold’s idea that poetry is the criticism of life.
3. What are Matthew Arnold’s views regarding a good poetry?
4. Short Q/A & MCQ’s

**Text Book with Basic Reading Course material:**

The Study of Poetry by Matthew Arnold online text

<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/Arnold_Study.pdf>

**Reference Books/ Supplementary Course Reading Material:**

<http://learningliteratureoverhere.blogspot.com/2016/08/a-study-of-poetry-matthew-arnold.html>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69374/the-study-of-poetry>

<https://sites.google.com/site/naineducationcom/literary-theory-and-criticism/an-article-on-arnold-s-the-study-of-poetry>

**Lecture notes/Set of Videos/Audios explaining the topic:**

<https://www.slideshare.net/NutanE/mathew-arnold-study-of-poetry>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEMyewJ7kzE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94KJf7JWHa0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPCEIkpwZBQ>

**Sample Papers:**

**Mid-Term Question Paper (Sample)**

**Total Marks: 30 Max. Time: 1.15 HRS**

Q:1 Objective Paper ( Fill in the Blanks/ MCQ’s ) 10

Q:2 Subjective Paper ( Answer these Short Question any 5 ) 10

Q: 3 Long Question . 10

**Final Term Question Paper (Sample)**

**Total Marks: 50 Max. Time: 2 HRS**

Q:1 Objective Paper ( Fill in the blanks and MCQ’s ) 10

Q:2 Subjective Paper ( Answer these Short Question any 5 ) 20

Q:3 Long Question. 10+10

**Note:** In case of any queries regarding the mentioned syllabus kindly contact the cell number or email address given above.