



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35323

Name: Recent developments in the literary theory

Cycle: Undergraduate Studies

ECTS Credits: 6

Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	3	Second quarter
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	4	Second quarter
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	4	Second quarter
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	3	Second quarter
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	4	Second quarter
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	3	Second quarter
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	4	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Developments in linguistics and literary theory	ELECTIVES
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Developments in linguistics and literary theory	ELECTIVES
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Developments in linguistics and literary theory	ELECTIVES
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Developments in linguistics and literary theory	ELECTIVES
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Developments in linguistics and literary theory	ELECTIVES
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Desarrollos recientes en teoría literaria	ELECTIVES
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Desarrollos recientes en teoría literaria	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

MASCARELL GARCIA PURIFICACIO



SUMMARY

This subject, which is optative in the degrees of English Studies, Catalan Studies, Spanish Studies and Classical Philology, aims to introduce students to the main movements of theoretical thought on literature and art from the seventies to the present day. The inclusion of currents such as the theory of polysystems, deconstruction, feminism, queer theory, genealogy or schizoanalysis, among others, show that the boundaries between literary criticism and cultural criticism have been blurred, which allows students to face the analysis of texts belonging to different literatures and artistic modalities from a more global perspective.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Given that one of the most outstanding characteristics of what has happened in literary theory since the 1970s is the blurring of boundaries between the different fields of knowledge (literary theory, history, philosophy, politics, sociology, etc.), it is recommended for the student to be aware of the need to do readings that belong to these other fields of knowledge.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

-

Be able to work and learn autonomously and to plan and manage work time.

Demonstrate, within the field of English Studies, an ethical attitude that focuses on aspects such as gender equality, equal opportunities, the values of the culture of peace and democracy and a sensitiveness regarding environmental problems and sustainability while, at the same time, knowing about and being able to appreciate linguistic diversity and multiculturalism.

Know and apply the currents and methodologies of literary theory and criticism.

Show ethical commitment in the field of language studies as regards gender equality, equal opportunities, the values of the culture of peace and democratic values and environmental and sustainability issues, and have an understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity and multiculturalism.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.



Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Work and learn autonomously and plan and manage work time.

Work as a team in the environment of language studies and develop interpersonal relations.

Work in a team in contexts related to English Studies and develop interpersonal relationships.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. From Structuralism to Poststructuralism: Exploring the "Outside" of the Text

A brief history of the evolution from the structuralist paradigm that prevailed in Literary Theory from its founding in the early 20th century until the 1970s and the emergence of a new perspective on texts that considers the "outside" of the literary phenomenon: history, authorship, socioeconomic conditions, etc.

2. The Theory of Deconstruction: How to Disarm Power

An approach to the philosophy of Jacques Derrida and his deconstructive approach to dismantling Western thought, destabilizing the structures of meaning and revealing the contradictions that shape our system. And how this deconstructive approach is applied when reading literature critically.

3. From Marxism to Cultural Studies: Social Class in Literature

Review of 19th-century Marxist ideas as a basis for the development of the Frankfurt School and Anglo-Saxon Cultural Studies. Analysis of the relationships between culture, communication, politics, and society to observe how social class is reflected in our way of reading and producing literary objects.

4. Feminist and Queer Literary Theory: Gender, Sex, and Identities

An examination of the main feminist theorists and their contributions (Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett, Judith Butler, etc.), with an approach that allows for the study of literary texts by challenging gender norms,



opening them up to transgressive interpretations that allow for the identification of violence, oppression, hidden identities, etc.

5. Postcolonial Theory: Race, Domination, and Writing on the Margins

A study of colonialism and its effects through Frantz Fanon and E. W. Said, with a special emphasis on the ideas of identity, nation, and literary language in the age of the migrant. An examination of how colonial structures persist after political independence and manifest themselves in culture, identity, and literature, placing the latter on the margins.

6. Systemic Theories, Sociology of Literature, and the Canon: Why We Read What We Read

The importance of context in interpreting and evaluating the text accordingly is the cornerstone of this last topic, which aims to understand why certain works are expelled from the canon, censored, or ignored, while others are placed at the center of the literary system, the market, and academia.

These contents will be reflected in the following **Learning Outcomes**:

- Carry out analysis of different literary and discursive texts according to the methodologies and strategies employed.
- Know how to recognize and locate the concepts belonging to the different schools and currents introduced during the course.
- Know how to present and develop a research work according to the principles of cultural criticism.
- To argue adequately the different aspects that affect the inclusion of the problem of gender, race and class.
- To know how to develop a critique of political institutions, including the University itself.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	60,00



Total hours	60,00
--------------------	--------------

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	24,00
Preparation for assessment activities	30,00
Resolution of case studies	6,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The contents of the subject are introduced from two sources: the referential world of the students and the relation with the critical concepts of the different schools. This implies a motivation of the students, who are compelled to participate actively in the development of the class, taking into account that the topics dealt with touch them very closely. In this methodology, the expository class, a series of power points and artistic materials from different sources are used.

EVALUATION

Evaluation criteria:

1. Final exam (70%)
2. Activities carried out during the semester (20%)
3. Class attendance, active participation and collaboration in creating a work and study environment in the classroom (10%)

The percentages of 20% and 10% are not recoverable in the second call, but the grade will be retained. This 30% of the final grade will only count if the student passes the final exam.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of the student's work. All work submitted in this course must be originally authored by every student. No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software, except if its use is part of the contents of the subject and is authorized by the teaching staff who teach it.

The general grading system shall follow the regulations of the Universitat de València approved by the Governing Council on 30 May 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

REFERENCES



- Asensi Pérez, M. (1998), *Historia de la teoría de la literatura (desde los griegos hasta el siglo XIX)*, Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch.
- Asensi Pérez, M. (2003), *Historia de la teoría de la literatura (desde principios del siglo XX hasta los años setenta)*, Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch.
- Culler, J. (2000), *Breve introducción a la teoría literaria*, Barcelona, Crítica (orig. inglesa: 1997).
- Davis, R. & Schleifer, R. (1989), *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, New York & London, Longman.
- Eagleton, T. (1988), *Una introducción a la teoría literaria*, México, FCE.
- Groden, M. & Kreiswirth, M. (eds.) (1994), *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Llovet, J. (ed.), (1996), *Teoria de la literatura. Corrents de la teoria literaria al segle XX*, Barcelona, Columna.
- Makaryk, I. R. (ed.) (1993), *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Literary Theory*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press.
- Ryan, M. & Rivkin, J. (1998), *Literary Theory: an Anthology*, Oxford, Blackwell.
- Selden, R. (1987), *La teoría literaria contemporánea*, Barcelona, Ariel.
- Selden, R. (ed.) (1995), *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism (From Formalism to Poststructuralism)*, vol. 7, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.