

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 35334  
**Name:** Practical criticism applied to English literature  
**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	1	Second quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Introduction to English literature studies	COMPULSORY

**COORDINATION**

ALONSO RECARTE CLAUDIA

**SUMMARY**

This course has two basic components and purposes.

A `critical' component aims to guide students in the practical application to literary texts in English of a variety of critical approaches and of key concepts in the study of language, literature and culture. Emphasis is placed in helping students develop the critical skills needed to understand and provide a reasoned response to texts in English in relation to issues such as gender relations, social stratification, ideological censure or religious and philosophical questions. Selected literary works in English will be used throughout the course as reference texts on which different approaches will be applied. (See content units 1 to 4).

A `technical' component aims to guide students in scholarly habits and in the use of resources for English Studies (including new technologies of information and communication) in order to locate and synthesize information (bibliographies, databases) and to present their own ideas (papers, projects, oral and audiovisual presentations) following citation conventions and avoiding plagiarism. (See content units 5 to 6)

This subject is part of the "Literature in the English language" module and the "Introduction to English literature studies" subject matter.



## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS

None.

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

### 1000 - Degree in English Studies

Apply ICT and computer programs, either locally or through a network, in the field of English Studies.

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 linguist diversity and multiculturality.

Demonstrate communicative and social competence in the English language (oral and written comprehension and expression, communicative interaction and mediation that includes correct grammar and style).

Develop a critical ability to explain literary texts in English and to identify aesthetic conventions, movements, periods, genres, authors and works in English language and their modes of production.

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

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 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.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



## **1. From the pre-critical response to critical approaches: an overview**

The significance of pre-critical approaches; an overview of critical approaches. The potential of different literary theories as frameworks for the study of texts.

## **2. Contextual approaches**

Survey of frameworks through which to criticize a work as representing extrinsic realities (psychological, social, economic, political, cultural), and as reproducing ideological, moral, philosophical and religious world-views. The survey includes frameworks such as archetypal theory, Marxism, psychoanalysis, gender studies and/or feminism, critical race theory and ecocriticism and/or (critical) animal studies.

## **3. Intertextual approaches**

Literary translation and adaptation theory as intertextual frameworks. Study of adaptation methods into new aesthetic mediums.

## **4. Reader-response theory and reception-oriented approaches**

Criticizing a work in relation to readers; interpretive strategies, competences, codes, conventions and identity and its reception in home and foreign cultures. Diachronic and/or synchronic study of the reception of (a) particular text(s).

## **5. A guide to scholarly writing**

Reading and academic writing conventions, argumentative and structural coherence, conventional words and phrases, documentation (referencing sources of information following standard styles in the Humanities) and avoiding plagiarism. MLA style (comparison with APA and Chicago styles).

## **6. New technologies of information and communication applied to English Studies**

Introduction to computational tools such as reference management, databases, accessing and assessing primary and secondary sources. Understanding the relevance of scholarly output and contributing to the academic conversation surrounding given texts.

These contents will lead to the following learning outcomes:

- Explain the basic theoretical premises, objectives, and methods of the types of literary criticism covered in this course,



- Summarise how a literary text studied in class can be interpreted in various ways through the critical perspectives addressed in the course,
- Formulate questions about a literary text from several critical approaches,
- Apply the concepts and critical methods of some of the approaches studied in class to a literary text in English,
- Explain the critical approach(es) used in a given piece of literary criticism,
- Write a well-structured essay using conventional academic English at the B1 level,
- Find reliable sources of information for their work,
- Show the origin of the ideas used in their writing by referencing their sources according to the MLA style,
- Organise the works cited list in their essays using MLA referencing styles,
- Apply the information and communication technologies used in class to their own work.

## WORKLOAD

### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	60,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	60,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	30,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course attempts to give more emphasis to practice than to theory, and to proceed from examining practical cases (of critical methods applied to specific texts, of real academic essays) to understanding



theoretical frameworks, critical concepts and guidelines to scholarly writing.

**Theory-based classes:** lectures and case studies .

Lectures will focus on clarification and discussion of key concepts and techniques rather than on exposition of matter students can find in the dossiers and bibliography. Consequently students are expected to work on assigned tasks (reading sections from course dossiers, answering questions set in advance) before attending class.

**Practical classes:** problem solving and case studies

Other activities: tutorials for orientation in preparing papers and projects.

## EVALUATION

Assessment breakdown in the First and Second Calls:

- A written essay: 50%
- A written exam: 50%

In order to pass the subject, students must obtain a minimum of a 5 in both their written essay and their written exam. For the second call, they will only have to repeat the activity that has not reached that 5-point minimum.

The ability to communicate at the B2 (CEFR level) is required to pass the course as a whole. Students whose communication (written and/or oral) displays errors that are not consistent with the above level will fail the module regardless of their performance related to the course contents.

Assessment criteria for the paper/essay:

- adequate organization of concepts, argumentation and writing skills
- originality and relevance
- management of delivery terms
- good research for bibliography and information
- proper documentation



- avoidance of plagiarism
- use of correct academic English

Plagiarism will not be tolerated; it is a serious academic offence. Any student who is found to have committed plagiarism in his/her work for the course will face serious consequences which will lead to failing the whole subject.

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.

El sistema general de qualificació seguirà la normativa de la Universitat de València aprovada pel Consell de Govern el dia 30 de maig de 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

## REFERENCES

- Klages, Mary. *Literary Theory. The Complete Guide*. Bloomsbury, 2017.
- Guerin, W. L. et al. *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*. Oxford University Press, 1992. 5th edition, 2005.
- Pope, Rob. *The English Studies Book*. Routledge, 1998.
- Oshima, Alice, and Ann Hogue. *Writing Academic English*. Longman, 2006.
- Murfin, Ross and S. M. Ray. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. 3rd ed., Bedford/St. Martin, 2009.
- McCormack, Joan and John Slaght. *English for Academic Study: Extended Writing & Research Skills*. Garnet, 2009.
- Whitla, William. *The English Handbook. A Guide to Literary Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Complementary references will be detailed in the virtual classroom for each academic year.