



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 35664
Name: 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	1	First quarter
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	First quarter
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	First quarter
1008 - Degree in Modern Languages and Literatures	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	First quarter
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1000 - Degree in English Studies	Literature	BASIC
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Literature	BASIC
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Literature	BASIC
1008 - Degree in Modern Languages and Literatures	Literature	BASIC
1013 - Degree in Classical Philology	Literatura	BASIC

COORDINATION

MASCARELL GARCIA PURIFICACIO

ZARAGOZA GOMEZ VERONICA

SUMMARY

This subject Theory of Literature, which is part of the Basic Training Literature subject within the General Philological Training module, aims to train students in the main ideas about literature and art that have been raised throughout history. In this sense, it is a historical and systematic introduction to thinking about this area of human activity. The concepts related to imagination and literary technique, the virtues and defects of poetic works, their formal mechanisms, their relationship with rhetoric, philosophy, science and



the rest of the arts, the theories on creativity, the different modes of representation, and the methods of analysis that allow the critical exercise before texts of different literatures are exposed.

The syllabus of the subject is found in the two books that form the basis for the development of the classes and the exam:

1) Manuel Asensi Pérez, *Historia de la teoría literaria (desde los orígenes hasta el siglo XIX)*, Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch, 1998.

2) Manuel Asensi Pérez, *Historia de la teoría literaria (el siglo XX hasta los años setenta)*, Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch, 2003.

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

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Have the ability to communicate orally and in writing in the native languages.

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

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.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction: What is the literature? Some basic notions about literary theory



- Brief history of the discipline and introduction to literary theory.
- Definition of the notion of "literature": properties and functions.
- Introduction to the different ways of analyzing the literary text.

2. Theorists and theories before the Theory of Literature: from the Classical period to the 18th century (Plato, Aristotle, classical rhetoric, and classicism)

- Evolution of ideas about literature in authors of the Classical world.
- Analysis of the metaphysical and ethical approaches to the literary object from Plato to Aristotle and their notions of mimesis and verisimilitude: from Plato's condemnation to the new appreciation of literature in Aristotle's *Poetics*.
- Rhetoric: The emergence of poetic theories in Rome as a synthesis of Greek treatises and the interest in the formal dimension of language (*elocutio*; rhetorical figures). Discussion of the notions of mimesis and verisimilitude in Latin rhetoric.

3. Break with Classicism: Kant

- Review of new approaches to literature following the aesthetic revolution of the 18th century and Romanticism.
- Discussion of the origin of aesthetics and new notions of art and the artist as poetic genius.
- Evolution of Kant's ideas about literature: mimesis, the Beautiful, and the Sublime.

4. Linguistic Poetics: From Russian Formalism to French Structuralism

- Historical approach to the origin of the discipline of Literary Theory based on the theories of Russian Formalism and its links with the artistic revolution of the 20th century.
- Analysis of the approaches to Russian avant-garde literary theory and its defense of the autonomy of art.
- Approach to key concepts in the Russian Revolution: literariness and estrangement as defining elements.
- Evolution toward narratology as a structural study of stories.

5. Literature beyond the linguistic: the author, the reader and the social context



- Review of 19th-century Marxist ideas.
- Approach to the notions of Reception Aesthetics and its focus on the reader.
- Analysis of the relationships between culture, politics, and society to observe how social class and gender are reflected in our way of reading and producing literary objects.

Through these contents, the student must acquire, as Learning Outcomes, knowledge of the theory and currents of literary criticism, as well as know how to apply them appropriately to the literary works studied.

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. This methodology uses the expository class, a series of power points and artistic materials from different sources.

EVALUATION

Activities carried out during the course and active participation in the classroom (30%)*.

Final exam (70%).



*(This 30% of the final grade will count only if the student has passed the final exam.)

This 30% cannot be recovered in the second call. The grade obtained during the course will be kept to the second call. Again, it will only be applied if the student passes the 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.