This core literary theory module aims to develop a greater self-awareness in the understanding of the reading process and of critical practice. The course introduces fundamental theoretical and critical concepts central to the study of English Literature. By focusing on a specific theoretical context each week, the module aims to develop fluency and confidence towards being critical readers of literature, as well as to develop awareness of the environments in which literary texts are produced.

**Core Texts:**

Students need to obtain the following texts, unless otherwise stated:

- Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*
- John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*
- Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*
- Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*. (*To be provided by lecturer*)

**IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST TO READ ALL PRIMARY TEXTS (EXCEPT *OROONOKO*) PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEMESTER.**

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY (NATIONAL DAY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Introduction: Liberal Humanism</td>
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| Three | August 24 | New Criticism and Formalist Criticism | Donald E. Hall, “The New Criticism and Formalist Analysis”  
Peter Barry, “Stylistics” |
| Four | August 31 | Reader Response | Donald E. Hall, “Reader-Response Analysis”  
Jane P. Tompkins, “An Introduction to Reader-Response Criticism” |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Author/Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five September 7</td>
<td>Narrative and Narratology</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Narratology”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six September 14</td>
<td>Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Criticism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Structuralism”, “Post-structuralism and Deconstruction”</td>
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<td>Seven September 21</td>
<td>Postmodernism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Postmodernism”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eight September 28</td>
<td>RECESS WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nine October 5</td>
<td>New Historicism and Cultural Materialism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “New Historicism and Cultural Materialism”</td>
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<td>Ten October 12</td>
<td>Psychoanalytic Criticism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Psychoanalytic Criticism”</td>
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<td>Eleven October 19</td>
<td>Marxist Criticism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Marxist Criticism”</td>
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<td>Twelve October 26</td>
<td>Feminist Criticism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Feminist Criticism”</td>
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<td>Thirteen November 4</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Lesbian/ gay Criticism”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourteen November 11</td>
<td>Postcolonial Criticism</td>
<td>Peter Barry, “Postcolonial Criticism”</td>
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</tbody>
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**Method of instruction:**
Weekly 2-hour lecture
Weekly 1-hour tutorial

**Mode of Assessment:**
Mid-term 1,200 – 1,500 word essay: 20%
End-term 1,800 – 2,000 word essay: 30%
Take home online administered test I: 25%
Take home online administered test II: 25%

Important Dates:
Mid-term essay: due end of week 7
End-term essay: due end of week 14
Take home online administered test I: week 11
Take home online administered test II: week 17

Suggested Secondary Reading:

(You are encouraged to explore and supplement the readings offered in the course reader with your own. You are however not confined to this list, nor are you required to read everything on this list. The following books are available in the library.)

Introductions to Literary Criticism and Theory
Terry Eagleton, Literary Theory: An Introduction, 3rd edition, University of Minnesota Press, 2008
Webster, Roger. Studying Literary Theory: An Introduction (USA: Bloomsbury, 2009)

Literary, Critical and Theoretical Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias

Anthologies