**THE NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENSFaculty of English Studies**

Spring 2020-21

**THEORY AND CRITICISM OF LITERATURE**4th semester

Section A-Z, Dr. Christina Dokou

Fridays, 12:00-15:00, Zoom

Topic: Christina Dokou's Zoom Meeting

Join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4360127294?pwd=QUxLUnlMdWYzL05zSUJ4bnBCOUJnZz09>

Meeting ID: 436 012 7294

Passcode: 821147

E-class: [η-Τάξη ΕΚΠΑ | Theory and Criticism of Literatu... (uoa.gr)](https://eclass.uoa.gr/courses/ENL552/)

Office Hours: by e-appointment

Office: 703, 7th floor, or through a screen

Welcome to a course that aims to introduce students to the vital tools of any modern scholar’s trade: the **various theories of interpreting literature (and other phenomena**), ways of criticizing a text, and the main promulgators of these ways of thought, from antiquity to the present. In a literary field currently dominated by theory in both its reception and its creation even, thorough knowledge of the basics this course offers is an essential skill each student must possess.

While the instructor will provide **introductory and analytical lectures** for each item and period during the main class time, your **strong participation** is indispensable for the profitable function of this course. Students are responsible for making up any material missed during the semester. Should any problems arise during the semester, please see the instructor as early as possible.

The **texts** for this course are available on/through my website, at: <http://users.uoa.gr/~cdokou/>. The PowerPoints with the weekly class outlines will be uploaded on e-class after each session.

**Assessment** for this course will be through a final examination; however, you may participate in the following **optional extra-credit assignment**, worth one (1) additional extra point: you will select one of the two advertisements posted on my website, and you will offer four different critical analyses to it, based respectively on four distinct theoretical approaches. Each analysis should be 1-2 typed pages (font: Times New Roman 12, 1,5 spacing, regular margins) and be based completely on your own, original understanding of the text and the theory’s relevance to it. The four analyses will be submitted during the final class of the semester in ELECTRONIC form (Word or Open Office file attached to mail) to my email [cdokou@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:cdokou@enl.uoa.gr), along with your name and student ID number. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

NOTE: For Erasmus students or students who are not familiar with Greek, alternative advertisements in English are available on the site.

**Course schedule**:

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| **Date** | **Subject and Readings Due** |
| March 5 | **Introduction & key concepts: General overview.** |
| March 12 | **Mimesis and Techne:**   * Plato, *Ion* * Aristotle, from *The Poetics*, Parts I-IX |
| March 19 | **The Sublime:**   * Burke “A Philosophical Enquiry…of the Sublime and the Beautiful,” Part I, Section VII, Part II, Section I, Part III, Section XXVII and Part IV, Section V. * Nietzsche, from *The Birth of Tragedy*, Parts 1, 9-10, 24-25 |
| March 26 | **New Criticism/ Formalism:**   * Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” * Bakhtin, “Epic and the Novel” from *The Dialogic Imagination* |
| April 2 | **Marxist Criticism:**   * Wilson, “Marxism and Literature” * Althusser, From *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses* |
| April 9 | **Psychoanalysis:**   * Freud, “from *The Interpretation of Dreams*” and “Creative Writers and Daydreaming” * Lacan, “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Analytical Function of the I” |
| April 16 | **Feminism:**   * Woolf, from *A Room of One’s Own*, pp 39-45; 67-71; 82-87 * Gilbert and Gubar, from *The Madwoman in the Attic*: “Infection in the Sentence,” pp. 38end (PDF)-46 (until “distinctive female power.”) |
| April 23 | **Gender and Queer Studies:**   * Butler, from *Gender Trouble* |
| May 14 | **Race:**   * Gates Jr, “Talking Black” * Allen, “Kochinnenako in the Academe”. Available at [£- Kochinnenako in Academe: - Ohio University (yumpu.com)](https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/17560415/-kochinnenako-in-academe-ohio-university) |
| May 21 | **Post-colonialism:**   * Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” * Said, from *Orientalism*, parts I and II of “Introduction” |
| May 28 | **New Historicism and Cultural Studies:**   * Foucault, “The Carceral” from *Discipline and Punish* * Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” |
| June 4 | **Postmodernism:**   * Lyotard, “Defining the Postmodern” * Barthes, “The Death of the Author” |
| June 11 | **Post-structuralism and Deconstruction:**   * Derrida, “Structure, Sign and Play…” |

**Suggested Further Readings**:

Knellwolf, Ch. et al., eds., *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*, vols. 1-9.

Leitch, Vincent B., et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. 2nd ed. New York and London: Norton, 2010.

Malpas, Simon and Paul Wake, eds., *The Routledge Companion to Critical Theory*.

Selden, Raman, and Peter Widdowson, *A Reader’s Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*.

Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy*Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*

Homi Bhabha, *The Location of Culture*Harold Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence*Cleanth Brooks, *The Well-Wrought Urn*Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*John Caputo, *Deconstruction in a Nutshell*Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

Terry Eagleton, *Marxism and Literary Criticism*

Franz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, 4 vols.Sigmund Freud, *Totem and Taboo*Luce Irigaray, *This Sex Which Is Not One*Fredric Jameson, *The Political Unconscious*Carl Gustav Jung, *Man and His Symbols*Longinus, *On the Sublime*Toril Moi, *Sexual/Textual Politics*William Norris, *Derrida*Jean-Paul Sartre, *What Is Literature*?Claude Lévi-Strauss, *The Raw and the Cooked*Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society*