

Theory and Practice of Literary Criticism: Adultery and Marriage 2014/2015 in Nineteenth-Century Fiction

Code: 42303
ECTS Credits: 9

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Estudis Anglesos Avançats / Advanced English Studies	OT	0	A

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Use of languages

Principal working language: anglès (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course illustrates how literary theory is applied to the nineteenth-century novel.

The approach is basically practical, focussing on how formalism, Marxism, feminism, psychoanalysis (to name a few schools) have studied fiction, and how you, as students, read both fiction and critical material.

The nineteenth-century novel is chosen for two basic reasons: first, for its focus on the modern institutions of life which theory has taken a deep interest in, such as romance, marriage, the family, the nation-state; second, the nineteenth-century novel not only represents the golden age of English literature but it is also the genre and century which all critical schools have arguably felt the need to analyse in great depth.

Skills

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret 19th century narrative texts by applying the advanced techniques of literary criticism.

2. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level Nineteenth Century English critical produced texts, extracting relevant citations and making content summaries.
3. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
4. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
5. Consider literary and cultural criticism in the English language through reading, debating and analysing texts.
6. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
7. Distinguish and contrast the different theoretical and methodological models applied to literary criticism in the English language.
8. Draft texts defending an idea in relation to a a literary critical text in English, applying secondary sources to the critical argumentation.
9. Make oral presentations in English on issues and texts related to advanced research of English Literature and literary criticism in this language.
10. Read and analyse the literary and cultural discourse of romantic love in the English language.
11. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.

Content

The course comprises 9 ECTS, approximately 45 hours of seminars. We will focus on four novels which students will be expected to have read before the course starts, which will be read in the following order:

- Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*,
- Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*,
- George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss*,
- Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

You are advised to obtain a good annotated version of these texts; in order of usefulness the best is the Norton Critical Edition, next best are the Oxford World Classics and Penguin Classics. Unlike contemporary society, the original recipients of these novels were great readers and we will have to imitate them as concerns their voracious appetite for fiction and essays. For this particular reason, the Norton editions are highly recommended as they contain many reviews and early readings of the texts.

The structure of the course is based four modules or units - of which the four major texts will be the centre. Each module will consist of an introductory session led by the instructor followed by others in which students will be asked to prepare and debate the critical issues as they appear in the texts and in the secondary material which will be assigned weekly. Students will be expected to show not only knowledge of the primary texts but also how critical theory has focussed on particular issues. In short, this course demands a high level of participation from its students.