

**Literary Criticism in English**

Code: 100269  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

**Contact**

Name: Joan Curbet Soler  
Email: Joan.Curbet@uab.cat

**Use of languages**

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

**Prerequisites**

The basic objective of this subject is to invite final-year students to respond critically to the essential question "how can we read literature?", bringing to this question the elements acquired throughout their degree course.

However, an additional objective-approached as a means of answering this question-is to introduce applied literary theory in the context of critical reading, thereby giving students advanced critical tools for the analysis and comprehension of literary texts at this terminal phase of their university study.

The course begins by reviewing and evaluating certain key theoretical approaches, their origins, their aims and their limitations. This will then be followed by reading three contemporary English-language novels, in order to see how these texts can constructively be studied through a fuller understanding of theory.

By the end of the course, students should have an effective working knowledge of how to apply essential literary theory to the analysis and discussion of literature.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The main aim of the subject is to bring up the question "How can we read literature?" to final year students, so that they can answer by considering all the elements acquired during their degree.

However, a further purpose is that of introducing the students to literary theory applied to the critical reading, thus providing advanced critical tools for the analysis and comprehension of literary texts.

The course starts with a revision and analysis of several especially relevant theoretical approaches, their origins, their objectives and drawbacks. At a second stage, three contemporary novels in English will be read, in order to understand how these texts can be read in a constructive way through a better understanding of the theory.

At the end of the course, the students will have acquired practical and efficient skills on how to apply the fundamental literary theory to the analysis and discussion of literature.

**Skills**

## English Studies

- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Effectively working individually or in teams in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English and other languages, applying values of a culture of peace, and the characteristic democratic values of a degree in a foreign language that trains the student for intercultural communication.
- Generate innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activities.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

## Learning outcomes

1. Apply the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
2. Applying the acquired knowledge about intercultural communication to the work in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English.
3. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language.
4. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
5. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
6. Developing a labour and research bond in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English that contribute to international collaboration.
7. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
8. Produce new professional initiatives.
9. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
10. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.

## Content

**Unitat 1:** Theoretical Approaches

**Unitat 2:** Theory applied to Sarah Waters' *The Little Stranger*

**Unitat 3:** Theory applied to Maggie O'Farrell's *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*

**Unitat 4:** Theory applied to Lloyd Jones' *Mr Pip*

## Methodology

1 crèdit ECTS = 25 hs teaching x 6 credits = 150 h.

- Directed activities (maximum 35%, we do 30%, 1.8 cr)
- Supervised activities (maximum 17%, we do 15%, 0.9 cr)
- Autonomous activities (minimum 50%, 3 cr)
- Assessment activities (maximum 5%, 0.3 cr)

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
-------	-------	------	-------------------

**Type: Directed**

Critical debate	25	1	9, 6
Critical writing	20	0.8	8
Reading and class debate	20	0.8	10, 9

**Type: Supervised**

Bibliography search	20	0.8	3, 4, 5, 9, 7
Personal study	8	0.32	5, 7
Writing	12	0.48	1, 7

**Type: Autonomous**

Theory Classes	45	1.8	9
----------------	----	-----	---

**Evaluation****PLEASE NOTE:**

1. • All the subjects in this degree follow continuous assessment.
2. • All the exercises are **COMPULSORY**. An exercise not handed in or an exam the student has not taken will count as 'NP' ('no presentat' or 'no evidence'), i.e., 0. Doing at least 30% of the assessment exercises, of any type, excludes obtaining an NP as final mark.
3. • The minimum mark for an exercise or exam to be considered for the average final mark is 4, although the minimum pass mark for the whole subject is 5.
4. • The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark.
5. • Review procedure: Students have a right to review their exercises with the lecturer in a personal tutorial, on the established dates, never later than 2 weeks after the exercise/exam is marked, including re-assessment. The student loses this right if s/he fails to collect the exercise/exam within the period announced by the lecturer.
6. • Re-assessment conditions:
  - The final grade is calculated on the basis of all evaluable work in accordance with the specific weighting established (see point 3, above).
  - Only those students who have fulfilled all coursework requirements and have obtained between 4.5 (FAIL) and 4.9 (FAIL) as a provisional final grade have a right to re-assessment.
  - Re-assessment will be through a written examination on a date and time established by the Faculty. This exam will synthesise the essential contents of the subject as a whole.
  - This examination will allow the lecturer to determine whether the re-assessment candidate has merited the pass grade of 5.0.
  - The **ONLY** re-assessment pass grade that will be awarded, therefore, is 5.0 (PASS).
  - Specific items of course work will **NOT** be re-assessed, except where a student may have registered a Not Present (NP) grade for such an item because of a justified absence (e.g., through illness, accredited by a doctor's note).
  - Re-assessment is **ONLY** available to students who have failed initial assessment; it is **NOT** available to pass students simply wishing to improve their grade.

Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year subjects) or the **WHOLE SUBJECT** (second-, third- and fourth-year subjects). **PLAGIARISING** consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented

unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a **SERIOUS OFFENCE**. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may happen to use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Essay	35%	0	0	3, 4, 1, 8, 7
Exam	50%	0	0	10, 9
Participation in in-class debates	15%	0	0	2, 5, 6

## Bibliography

### Theory:

Rivkin, Julie & Ryan, Michael, *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell; 2nd Revised edition, 2004.

### The Novels:

Jones, Lloyd. *Mr Pip*. London: John Murray, 2006.

O'Farrell, Maggie. *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*. London: Heading Review, 2006.

Waters, Sarah. *The Little Stranger*. London: Virago, 2009.