

**Institute of English Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
University of the Punjab, Lahore.
Course Outline**



Programme	BS English Literature	Course Code	ELL-303	Credit Hours	3
Course Title	Literary Theory and Practice I				
Course Introduction					
This course traces vital English literary criticism debates from Plato to T. S. Eliot. Students will analyze classical and romantic schools through key figures like Aristotle and Wordsworth. The curriculum covers "practical criticism" and "close reading" alongside ideas-led theory. Learners will see how critics respond to both contemporary works and past traditions. A major focus includes Plato’s theory of imitation and Sidney’s famous rebuttal. The course highlights Matthew Arnold’s belief in studying diverse poetic cultures. Students will gain a deep understanding of how critical theorizing evolves over centuries. It explores the transition from ancient Greek foundations to early 20th-century thought. The material grounds students in essential concepts needed for advanced literary theory. Overall, it prepares students to navigate complex cultural and academic arguments.					
Learning Outcomes					
1. Trace the historical development of literary criticism from Plato to T.S. Eliot. 2. Analyze the evolution of poetic and dramatic forms across different eras. 3. Identify significant trends and concepts within global and English literature. 4. Understand the historical context that shaped major critical movements. 5. Gain a foundational introduction to various contemporary literary theories. 6. Apply critical insights to better interpret both creative and theoretical texts.					
Course Content			Assignments/Readings		
Week 1	Introduction: Greek to Modern Times		Overview of Literary Criticism		
Week 2	Plato (427-347 BC) Selections from <i>The Republic</i> (c. 380BC) Chapter 7				
Week 3	Plato (427-347 BC) Selections from <i>The Republic</i> (c. 380BC) Chapter 10				
Week 4	Aristotle (394-422 BC) <i>The Poetics</i> (c. 335 BC)				
Week 5	Aristotle (394-422 BC) <i>The Poetics</i> (c. 335 BC)				
Week 6	Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1585): <i>An Apology for Poetry</i> (1595)				
Week 7	William Wordsworth (1770-1850): <i>Preface to Lyrical Ballads</i> (1798-1802)				
Week 8	Mid-Term Examinations				
Week 9	William Wordsworth (1770-1850): <i>Preface to Lyrical Ballads</i> (1798-1802)				

Week 10	S.T. Coleridge (1772-1834): <i>Biographia Literaria</i> (Chapter xiv, xv)	
Week 11	S.T. Coleridge (1772-1834): <i>Biographia Literaria</i> (Chapter xvi, xvii)	
Week 12	Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) <i>The Sky of Poetry</i> (1880)	
Week 13	Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) <i>The Sky of Poetry</i> (1880)	
Week 14	T.S. Eliot (1888-1965) “Tradition & the Individual Talent (1921)”	
Week 15	T.S. Eliot (1888-1965) “Tradition & the Individual Talent (1921)”	
Week 16	End-Term Examinations	
Textbooks and Reading Material		
1. Bressler, C. E. (2011). <i>Literary criticism: An introduction to theory and practice</i> (5th ed.). Pearson. 2. Ryan, M. (2017). <i>Literary theory: A practical introduction</i> (3rd ed.). John Wiley & Sons. 3. Tyson, L. (2023). <i>Critical theory today: A user-friendly guide</i> (4th ed.). Routledge. 4. Barry, P. (2017). <i>Beginning theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory</i> (4th ed.). Manchester University Press. 5. Dobie, A. B. (2011). <i>Theory into practice: An introduction to literary criticism</i> (3rd ed.). Wadsworth.		
Teaching Learning Strategies		
• Class Discussion • Reading and analyzing the text through interactive sessions. • Class presentations. • Group Discussions. • Lectures, seminars and tutorials..		
Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar		
Two assignments, one before midterms and one after midterm, to be submitted.		