

INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDIES – LECTURE

Prof. Ondřej Pilný, PhD

Monday 9:10-9:55, Room 104

SYLLABUS – SUMMER SEMESTER

1. (19 Feb) Introduction

2. (26 Feb) Narrative I

- general characteristics of narratives
- story and narrative (fabula vs. sujet)
- author vs. narrator
- narrative and its medium (fiction, narrative poetry, theatre, film)

3. (4 Mar) Narrative II

- overt and covert narrator
- narrative and communication
- unreliable narrator
- narrative person

4. (11 Mar) Narrative III

- narrative mode (telling vs. showing)
- focalization, perspective, point of view
- metafiction

5. (18 Mar) Approaches to Text (Typology of Literary Theories)

- typology of literary theories (M.H. Abrams)
- general features of the reading process

(25 Mar, 1 Apr – no class)

6. (8 Apr) Mimetic Approaches (Representation)

- mimesis: Plato, Aristotle
- literature as representation of reality in language
- literature in communication
- types of representation according to semiologists (icon – index – symbol)

7. (15 Apr) Author-Centred Approaches

- authorial intention
- intentional fallacy, close reading (New Criticism)
- death of the author (Barthes, Foucault)
- death of the author = birth of the reader?

8. (22 Apr) Reader-Centred Approaches

- reader-response theories
- subjectivity vs. the model / ideal / informed reader
- open and closed texts (Eco)

9. (29 Apr) Text-Centred Approaches I: Structuralism

- basic features of the structuralist approach (Saussure, Lévi-Strauss)

Mid-term essay due this week.

10. (6 May) Text-Centred Approaches II: Semiotics

- the politics of signification
- mythology (Barthes)

11. (13 May) Text-Centred Approaches III: Post-Structuralism

- post-structuralist critique of structuralism (Barthes, Derrida)
- deconstruction

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Montgomery, M., et al., *Ways of Reading* (London: Routledge, 1992).
Green, K. and LeBihan, J., *Critical Theory and Practice* (London: Routledge, 1996).
Aristotle, *Poetics* (any edition).
Fludernik, M., *An Introduction to Narratology* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2009).
Lethbridge, S. and Mildorf, J., *Basics of English Studies* (English departments of the Universities of Tübingen, Stuttgart and Freiburg, n.d.), esp. Section 2.5 “Narrators and Narrative Situation”
Hobsbaum, P., *Metre, Rhythm and Verse Form* (Abingdon: Routledge, 1996).
Cuddon, A.J., *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (London: Penguin, 1992).
Preminger, A. and Brogan, T.V.F., *The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).
Pavis, P., *Dictionary of the Theatre: Terms, Concepts, and Analysis* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998).

ASSESSMENT

Double-subject Students

WS (zápočet): Attendance (max. 2 unexplained absences) and active participation in class, mid-term essay: interpretation of poetry (1 500 words).

SS (zápočet): Attendance (max. 2 unexplained absences) and active participation in class, mid-term essay: narrative analysis (1 500 words).

Criteria of Assessment: All assignments will be awarded a letter grade. **Credit (zápočet)** for each semester will be given on the basis of receiving a **pass grade (i.e., A to C-)** for both essay and participation.

Single-subject Students:

WS (zápočet): Attendance (max. 2 unexplained absences) and active participation in class, mid-term essay: interpretation of poetry (1 500 words), final test on poetics and genre definitions.

SS (zápočet, zkouška): Attendance (max. 2 unexplained absences) and active participation in class, mid-term essay: narrative analysis (1 500 words), final test on narrative strategies and approaches to text (literary theories).

Criteria of Assessment: All assignments will be awarded a letter grade. **Credit (zápočet)** for each semester will be given on the basis of receiving a **pass grade (i.e., A to C-)** for essay, test and participation each. The **final exam grade** (after the summer semester) will be calculated from the results in the individual assignments in the following manner:

Composition of Final Exam Grade for Single Subject Students

Participation winter semester	10%
Participation summer semester	10%
Essay winter semester	25%
Essay summer semester	25%
Test winter semester	15%
Test summer semester	15%

Value of Individual Letter Grades Awarded for Assignments

	10%	15%	25%
A	10	15	25
A-	9	13.5	22.5
B+	8.7	13	21.75
B	8.5	12.75	21.25
B-	8	12	20
C+	7.7	11.5	19.25
C	7.5	11.25	18.75
C-	7	10.5	17.5

Conversion of Grades to a Final FFUK Exam Grade

FFUK Grade	Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
1	A	96-100	Outstanding work
	A-	90-95	
2	B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above average
	B	83-86	
	B-	80-82	

3	C+	77-79	Acceptable work
	C	73-76	
	C-	70-72	
F	F	0-69	Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course

Example:

A student's performance has been graded as follows:

Participation winter semester	A-	= 9
Participation summer semester	B	= 8.5
Essay winter semester	A-	= 22.5
Essay summer semester	C	= 18.75
Test winter semester	C	= 11.25
Test summer semester	B	= 12.75
The final exam grade is	2 (B-)	= 82.75%