



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**ENG915: Methods and Techniques of Critical Discourse**

**Detailed Course Description**

**ENG915: Methods and Techniques of Critical Discourse**

**(3 Credit units)**

This is a course meant to acquaint students with the advanced techniques, theories or methods of critical discourse. It is expected that majority of students at this level would normally work on theses that involve offline and online analysis of literary texts. The course, therefore, focuses on a higher level of the approaches treated under the course “Literary Theory and Criticism” in the M.A. Programme. Advanced discussions on topics such as Structuralism, Poetics, Semiology, Semiotics, Reader-Response, Deconstruction, Speech Act, Realism, Critical Consciousness, New Historicism, Naturalism and Marxism or any other critical tenets will be carried out. The literary text is the focus of this course. It will demonstrate how these techniques can be deployed in the analysis, assessment, judgment and evaluation of literary texts.

## **Course Aims**

1. To expose students to the analysis of texts based on these advanced methods and techniques.
2. To develop an acute critical sense in the students.
3. To help students understand that critical analysis is not just for its own sake but as an exercise in assessment, judgment and evaluation using these methods.
4. To take the knowledge of the students to a higher level from that acquired at the Masters (MA) level.
5. To instill confidence in the students to undertake any argument on critical analysis.

## **Course Objectives**

As earlier stated, this course examines methods and techniques of critical thinking based on the knowledge acquired in “Literary Theory and Criticism.” The student is encouraged to be adventurous and delve into the world of “advanced literary theories.” However, the basic tools of criticism acquired in “Literary Theory and Criticism” (formalistic, moralistic, archetypal, sociological and psychological) should be kept in focus as they will help the students evaluate their ‘advanced’ knowledge gained in the course. At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- a) Distinguish between one technique and another.
- b) Carry on meaningful discussions on even the most challenging technique with confidence
- c) Apply the techniques to specific stories, poems, plays, film texts and essays.
- d) Trace, with a high level of accuracy, the relationship between an ‘advanced’ technique and one of the five basic methods or techniques.
- e) Import the knowledge acquired to other individuals or groups
- f) Make critical connections in ideas and become better thinkers.
- g) Critically analyse issues to solve problems in texts and contexts.
- h) The following textbooks are recommended for your consideration:
- i) Abrams, M.H and Harpham, G.G. (2012) *A Glossary of Literary Terms*.10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.
- j) Achebe, Chinua, (2012). *There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra*. London: Penguin Books.
- k) Aliyu-Ibrahim, Modupe. (2010). “Culture and Afro-Centric Feminist Notions: A Critical Analysis of Stiwanism, Motherism, Womanism and Nego-Feminism.” *Journal of the Literary Society of Nigeria* 10 (2018):123-140,
- l) Bressler, Charles E. (2003). *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

- m) Chinweizu, Onwuchekwa Jemie and Ihechukwu Madubuike. (1980). *Toward the Decolonization of African Literature. Vol 1*. Enugu: Fourth Dimension Publishers.
- n) Crystal, David, (2007). *Making Sense: The Clamorous Story of English Grammar*. London: Profile Books.
- o) Darah, G. G. (2009). "Revolutionary Pressures in Niger-Delta Literature." *The Guardian*. 28 June. 10-12.
- p) *Dictionary of Literature*. (1990). New Lanark: Geddes and Grosset.
- q) Dorsch, I.S. (ed., Trans). (1965). *Classical Literary Criticism: Aristotle, Horace, Longinus*. London: Penguin Books.
- r) Dukore, F. Bernard, (1974). *Dramatic Theory and Criticism: Greeks to Grotowski*. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.
- s) Eagleton, Terry, (2001). *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press.
- t) Eko, Ebele, ed. (2014). *Masterpieces of African Literature, Vol. 1*. Shomolu-Lagos: Mace Books/Sunbird Africa Media Limited.
- u) Enright, D.J. and Chickera Ernst De (eds). (2012). *English Critical Texts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- v) Ezeigbo, T. Akachi (2012). *Snail Sense Feminism: Building on an Indigenous Model*. Faculty of Arts, University of Lagos: Wealth Smith Books.

- w) Fowler, Roger, (ed.) (1974). *A Dictionary of Modern Critical Terms*. Oxford: Routledge Kegan Paul.
- x) Fowler, Roger, (1996). *Linguistic Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- y) Freire Paulo. (1973). *Education for Critical Consciousness*. New York: Seabury.
- z) \_ \_ \_ . (1988). "The Adult Literacy Process as Cultural Action for Freedom and Education and Conscientizacao." *Perspectives on Literacy*. Eds. Eugene R. Kintgen et al. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press. 398-409.
- aa)Freire, Paulo, and Shor, I. (1987). *A Pedagogy of Liberation: Dialogues on Transforming Education*. London: Macmillan.
- bb) Gadotti, M. Reading (1994). *Paulo Freire: His Life and Works*. Albany State University of New York Press.
- cc)Gikandi, Simon, (ed). (2009). *The Routledge Encyclopedia of African Literature*. New York: Routledge.
- dd) Harmon, William & Holman Hugh (2009). *A Handbook to Literature* Eleventh Edition. London: Pearson.
- ee)Keat, Russell. (1981). "Psychoanalysis and Human Emancipation." *The Politics of Social Theory: Habermas, Freud and the Critique of Positivism*. Ed. Basil Blackwell. Edinburgh: University of Chicago Press, pp 1-32.

- ff) *Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature*. (2003). Massachusetts: Merriam Webster.
- gg) Nwagbara, Uzoechi. (2010). "Aesthetics of Resistance and Sustainability: Tanure Ojaide and the Niger-Delta Question." *LASU Journal of Humanities* 7, 30-57.
- hh) Nairne, James S. (2009). *Psychology*. Canada: Wadsworth.
- ii) Ogundipe-Leslie, Molar. (1994). *Re-creating Ourselves: African Women and Critical Transformation*. Trenton, New Jersey: Africa World Press.
- jj) Olaniyan, Tejumola & Quayon, Ato (2007). *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.
- kk) Poplawski, Paul, ed. (2003). *Encyclopedia of Literary Modernism*. London, Greenwood.
- ll) Ritcher, David. (1989). *The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends*. Boston: Bedford Books.
- mm) Sanders, T. G. (1968). "The Paulo Freire Method: Literacy, Training and Conscientisation." *West Coast South America Series XV.1*, 1-17.
- nn) Seta, Catherine E., John Seta, and Paul Paulus. (1998). *Study Guide Plus for Baron Psychology*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- oo) Taylor, P. V. (1993). *The Texts of Paulo Freire*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

pp) Stephen, Martin, (2000). *English Literature: A Student Guide*. 3rd Edition. Essex, Pearson.

qq) Shaw, Bernard. (1984). *Arms and the Man*. Essex: Longman.

rr) wa Thiong'o Ngugi. (2007). "The Language of African Literature." in Olaniyan, 285-306.

ss) Welleck, Rene and Warren, Austin. (1973). *Theory of Literature*. Middlesex:

tt) Penguin Books Limited.