

Literary Theories in the Twentieth Century – 2023-2024
Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics

Mondays 12:15-13:45

Course Number: 132.1.3161 (Fall Semester) + 132.1.3171 (Spring Semester)

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Course Requirements:

Participation 10%

Pre-Class Tasks 10%

Four Quizzes 20%

Midterm paper (2-3 pages) 30%

Final Exam 30%

Attendance*

- **Attendance is mandatory.** You are allowed—for the whole year—**up to four absences from the lecture and four absences from the Targil**, including *Tkufat Hashinuyim*. Special consideration will be given to students in *miluim*.
- Any additional absence will have consequences for your final grade, and may preclude you from taking the final exam.
- **Arriving to class late** more than two times will count as an absence.
- We expect that you **budget your own absences** to account for holidays, travel, sick-days and academic overload. If you must be absent due to a medical or a family emergency, **please get in touch with us** about possible arrangements.
- If you miss class material, please consult other students for the missed material, or email us to schedule office hours. **You are responsible to make up whatever material you miss!**

Participation

- **Follow the syllabus** and **read the assigned material** for each class.
- **Arrive to class prepared**, with question, thoughts and ideas about the material.
- **Take part in class discussions.** This, along with your own engagement with the reading material, are incredibly important aspects of the course, and a good way to **assess your understanding without direct implications to your grade.**
- You may bring your reading material in digital format (computer/tablet) to class, but keep in mind that **engagement with the computer/tablet outside of class**

material will affect your grade. At times, for purposes of discussion or in-class activities, we may ask you to put away all digital devices.

- **Phones are not allowed in class for any reason!** If you have pressing matters, let us know before class and then feel free to step outside to text/call.

Assignments*

- Each week, you are required to **submit a few lines on Moodle concerning the assigned reading.** These must be submitted each **Sunday by midnight.**

- In the course of the year, there will be **four (two each semester) quizzes.**

- A **take-home exam** will take place at the end of the first semester.

-An on-campus **exam** will take place at the end of the academic year.

***Due to the circumstances surrounding the academic year, allowances will be made in case of special circumstances, such as Reserve Duty (*milluim*) or other affairs relating to the war. If you are impacted by such circumstances, please promptly inform us so that we can provide appropriate accommodations. Your well-being and academic progress are important to us.**

Semester A (Fall Semester):

1. Introduction:

What is literary theory?

2. Russian Formalism:

Viktor Shklovsky, from "Art as Device" (1916)

Targil Text: Elizabeth Bishop, "The Art of Losing"

3. New Criticism:

Cleanth Brooks, "Keats's Sylvan Historian: History Without Footnotes" (1947)

John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (1820)

Targil Text: William Wordsworth, "Surprised by Joy" (1815)

4. Psychoanalysis – Freud:

Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (1919)

E.T.A Hoffmann, "The Sandman" (1816)

Targil Text: "The Sandman (cont.)"

5. Psychoanalysis – Bloom:

Quiz on Russian Formalism and New Criticism

Harold Bloom, "Introduction" from *The Anxiety of Influence* (1973)

Targil Text: Mathew Arnold, "Dover Beach" (1867)

6. Feminist Psychoanalytic Criticism:

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, "Infection in the Sentence" (1979)

Targil Text: Christina Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (1896)

7. Reader Response:

Wolfgang Iser, "Interaction between Text and Reader" (1980)

Targil Text: in-class reading – TBA

8. Structuralist Linguistics:

Ferdinand de Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics* (1916)

Targil Text: e. e. cummings, "anyone lived in a pretty how town" (1940)

9. Structuralist Anthropology:

Quiz on Psychoanalytic theories (Freud, Bloom, G&G)

Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth" (1955)

Targil Text: Grimm Brothers, from *Fairy Tales* (1812)

10. Narratology:

Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, "Narrative Levels and Voices" (1983)

Targil Text: Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Final Problem" (1893)

11. Semester Recap

Midterm Paper (Date TBA)