

## **Literary Theory from Antiquity to Modernity**

### **Core BA Course (2019–2020) / Dr. Jonathan Stavsky**

For over two millennia, authors, teachers, scholars, philosophers, and even theologians have been debating what literature is, how it functions, and whether its effects are beneficial or harmful. The present course follows the development of this conversation from ancient Greece and Rome through medieval and Renaissance Europe and England to the cusp of modernism. It will train you in analyzing earlier theoretical texts, placing them in their intellectual context, and using them in order to enrich your understanding of literature from various periods. Writings by Plato, Aristotle, Horace, Longinus, Augustine, Dante, Boccaccio, Sidney, Pope, Arnold, Wilde, and others will be made available on the course website.

#### **Prerequisites**

- Introduction to British Culture I;
- Introduction to British Culture II;
- Poetry Analysis;
- Introduction to Theory;
- Writing Tutorial.

#### **Evaluation**

- Regular attendance during the entire course, including make-up classes (10%);
- A take-home exam at the end of the first semester (30%);
- A final paper at the end of the second semester (60%).

To pass this course, you must attend the required number of classes, submit the exam and the final paper on time via the course Moodle, and receive a passing grade for each.

NOTE: You cannot get partial credit for this year-long course or split it between two years.

#### **Basic Course Rules**

Full attendance in all classes for the entire duration of the lesson is necessary in order for you to achieve the goals of this course. No less important is your commitment to preparing the required texts before they are taught, following the lectures and discussion attentively, and doing your best to participate when called upon to do so. Should you fall behind on your studies even for a week or two, you will find it very difficult to catch up later. Since this is a reading-intensive course, plan to spend around three hours studying for each lesson. If you have any time left, start getting ready for the next one.

Please show consideration to other students as well as the lecturer by refraining from side conversations, using electronic devices for non-course-related purposes, wandering in and out of the classroom, bringing in visitors, consuming strong-smelling, crispy, or crunchy food or carbonated drinks, and other distractions. Disrespectful or confrontational behavior will not be tolerated.

### **Attendance Policy**

- Attendance in all classes from the first day of the semester is obligatory. There will be a penalty of two points for every unexcused absence. Students who accrue six or more absences in total for whatever reason will not be allowed to pass the course.
- All absences must be coordinated with the lecturer in advance of the affected class or, in case of an emergency, as soon as possible thereafter. Those due to late registration, documented illness, childbirth, veteran service, and certain religious holidays (listed at [www.tau.ac.il/calendar](http://www.tau.ac.il/calendar)) will not incur a two-point penalty but will still be counted.
- If you signed up for this course during the change period, please ask the Department Office to send the lecturer an email confirming the date and hour of your enrollment. You will only be excused from the classes you missed before joining the course.
- An official doctor's note is needed to justify absences on account of ill health. Such notes must be issued no later than 72 hours following the first day of your absence.
- If you encounter another problem that you believe may call for special consideration, contact the lecturer the moment it arises and be prepared to follow his instructions. Such cases will not be negotiated at a later date.
- Students who repeatedly come in late or leave early will be marked as absent when such behavior occurs. If you have a particular reason for doing so on a one-time basis, please notify the lecturer before the beginning of class.
- Students who for any reason have failed to sign the attendance sheet will also be counted as absent. Please wait patiently until it reaches you or add your name at the end of the lesson.

### **Policy on Assignments**

- Detailed guidelines for writing your exam and final paper will be posted on the course website. Study them carefully to make sure you know what is expected of you and how to meet these expectations with the best results.
- In some cases, exams and papers that do not follow the lecturer's instructions will receive an automatic failing grade. These include failure to address the assigned topic, use the required sources, observe the rules of documentation and citation, work exclusively with the permitted editions, and rely solely on peer-reviewed scholarship.
- No extensions will be given to any deadline except in extraordinary circumstances (such as childbirth, prolonged hospitalization, or veteran service).