

## Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Comparative Literature with Theory of Literature
Course Unit Title: Contemporary Literary Theories: Problem Approaches
Course Unit Code: 21KK087
Name of Lecturer(s): Assoc. Prof. Stevan Bradić, PhD
Type and Level of Studies: Bachelor
Course Status (compulsory/elective): obligatory
Semester (winter/summer): spring
Language of instruction: English or Serbian
Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): Face-to-face
Number of ECTS Allocated: 3
Prerequisites: /
Course Aims:  The student is expected to become acquainted with current directions in literary theory, as well as with the key issues and debates that have marked the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Additionally, the student should develop a critical approach and an awareness of the relevant theoretical and historical contexts for interpreting literary phenomena.
Learning Outcomes:  The student has gained an understanding of current directions in literary theory, has acquired advanced knowledge of methodologies for the study of literature, and is able to apply appropriate approaches independently at their own discretion, as well as to critically assess the shortcomings of different approaches.
Syllabus:  Throughout the course, students will become familiar with relevant literary theories that emerged or gained global significance after 1968, and they will engage with the central issues that have shaped literary studies over the past five decades. The course will cover a selection of key texts by major authors from this period, and students will choose a particular approach to apply in a concrete analysis, whether of a purely theoretical or literary-analytical nature.  The topics addressed include the critique of structuralism and the emergence of poststructuralism; the critique of logocentrism, and the concepts of difference and repetition as developed by Derrida, Barthes, and Deleuze; the relationship between words and things, fiction and reality, and the importance of discursive practices in constituting various forms of power, as explored by Foucault; the postmodern condition and the collapse of the concept of literary autonomy, including the post-avant-garde and trans-avant-garde formations discussed by Lyotard and Jameson.  Further themes include the understanding of the relationship between the imaginary, the symbolic, and the real, the role of literature in shaping desire as a social phenomenon, and the intersection of literature and ideology, especially in the work of Lacan and Žižek. The course also examines the social construction of gender, the relationship between gender and power, feminist approaches to literature, and feminist literary criticism through theorists such as Gilbert and Gubar, Irigaray, Cixous, Butler, and hooks.  Additional topics include the concepts of fiction, mimesis, and the simulacrum (Deleuze, Baudrillard); postcolonial theory, Eurocentrism, orientalism, and imperialism in literature (Said); the fictionality of identity and cultural hybridity (Anderson, Bhabha); contemporary critical theory, the social genesis of autonomous

literature, the politics of literature, and literature as an aesthetic practice (Bourdieu, Rancière, Badiou); contemporary debates on world literature (Damrosch, Moretti, Casanova, Thomsen); as well as translation studies, descriptive translation theory, the cultural turn in translation theory, and the sociology of translation (Even-Zohar, Bassnett, Venuti, Sapiro).

Required Reading:

- Anderson, B.** *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 1983 / revised edition 2006.
- Bhabha, H. K.** “DissemiNation: Time, Narrative, and the Margins of the Modern Nation.” In *Nation and Narration*, edited by Homi K. Bhabha, London: Routledge, 1990, pp. 291–322.
- Badiou, A.** *Fifteen Theses on Contemporary Art*. In *Artforum* (various translations circulate online and in *Polemic*, 2003).  
— . “Manifesto of Affirmationism”, Published in various collections or journals (check anthologies like *The Age of the Poets*).
- Barthes, R.** *Mythologies*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1972.
- Bassnett, S.** Likely article is: “The Translator as Cultural Mediator,” or others in *Constructing Cultures: Essays on Literary Translation*, with André Lefevere. London: Multilingual Matters, 1998.
- Butler, J.** *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge, 1990 / revised edition 2006.
- Baudrillard, J.** *Simulacra and Simulation*. Translated by Sheila Glaser. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994.
- Gilbert, S. and Gubar, S.** “Infection in the Sentence: The Woman Writer and the Anxiety of Authorship.” In *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979, pp. 45–92.
- Deleuze, G.** *Difference and Repetition*. Translated by Paul Patton. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.  
— . “Percept, Affect, Concept.” From *What Is Philosophy?*, co-authored with Félix Guattari. Translated by Hugh Tomlinson and Graham Burchell. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.
- Derrida, J.** “White Mythology: Metaphor in the Text of Philosophy.” In *Margins of Philosophy*, translated by Alan Bass. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.
- Even-Zohar, I.** “The Position of Translated Literature within the Literary Polysystem.” In *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti. London: Routledge, 2000, pp. 192–197.
- Žižek, S.** *The Parallax View*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006.
- Irigaray, L.** *An Ethics of Sexual Difference*. Translated by Carolyn Burke and Gillian C. Gill. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.
- Carbonell, O.** Possible equivalent in English: “Exotic Space and Cultural Translation.” Try anthologies on translation theory or contact author if original is unavailable.
- Lacan, J.** *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: W. W. Norton, 1981.
- Lyotard, J.-F.** *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Translated by Geoff Bennington and Brian Massumi. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.
- Rancière, J.** *The Politics of Literature*. Translated by Julie Rose. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011.  
— . *The politics of aesthetics: The distribution of the sensible*. Continuum, 2006.
- Said, E.** *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1978 / Vintage Books, 1994.
- Cixous, H.** “The Laugh of the Medusa.” Translated by Keith Cohen and Paula Cohen. *Signs* 1, no. 4 (1976): 875–893.
- Foucault, M.** “The Order of Discourse.” In *Untying the Text: A Post-Structuralist Reader*, edited by Robert Young, Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1981.  
— . *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1970.
- Jameson, F.** *Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1991.

Weekly Contact Hours: 4

Lectures: 4

Practical work:

Teaching Methods: dialogical, multi-medial, textual

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):

Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class participation	10	written exam	70
Practical work	/	oral exam	
Preliminary exam(s)	20	.....	
Seminar(s)			

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.