

# CAH2142: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism

### Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

### Course Number

2142

### Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

Chinese

### Medium of Assessment

Chinese

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course will introduce students to concepts, topics, and issues of literary theory and criticism. Wherever feasible, seminal texts of Chinese literary thought and those of European literary theory will be juxtaposed to demonstrate basic questions and concerns shared by different literary traditions. The Chinese texts will be offered and explained to familiarize students with these shared questions and concerns, but the focus of this course will be on European literary theory and criticism. Students are encouraged to read the texts of European critical theory written in English, and to think whether the concepts and approaches outlined in these texts can be applied to interpreting Chinese literature. The objective of this course is to provide students with methods and tools of studying literature, and to stimulate them to reflect on the characteristics of Chinese literature in a broad, comparative context.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the main concepts, topics, and issues of literary theory and criticism.	30	x	x	x
2	Describe various rhetorical techniques, structures and styles of exemplary critical texts.	20	x	x	x
3	Apply different theoretical approaches to literary studies.	30	x	x	x
4	Demonstrate research skills clearly and coherently for literary criticism.	20	x	x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain knowledge about basic concepts, questions, and issues shared by different literary traditions. Exemplary critical texts will be analyzed to demonstrate rhetorical techniques and structures. Different approaches to understand literature and literary criticism will be discussed.	1, 2, 3

2	Tutorials	Students will engage in a number of tutorial groups. Each group is responsible for one oral presentation with a written report on their exploring different literary topics and issues.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Writing assignment: Students are required to analyse critical texts with different approaches and explore the characteristic of literature.	2, 3, 4	50	-	Yes
2	Oral and written presentation: Each tutorial group is responsible to analyse chosen literary concept and topic and lead the class for discussion. Group members should also complete a written report covering their exploration by the end of the semester.	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	Yes

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Writing assignment

**Criterion**

1. Knowledge of the subject
2. Critical thinking ability in reviewing relevant researches
3. Application of relevant approaches.
4. Ability in knowledge application.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of knowledge in literary studies.

2. Excellent critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Excellent application of theories in literary studies.
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Good application of theories in literary studies.
4. Good ability in knowledge application.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Fair command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Fair critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Fair application of theories in literary studies.
4. Fair ability in knowledge application.

**Marginal (D)**

1. Marginal command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Marginal application of theories in literary studies.
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

**Failure (F)**

1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/ research articles related to literary studies.
3. Unsatisfactory application of theories in literary studies.
4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.

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**Assessment Task**

Oral and written presentation

**Criterion**

1. Knowledge of the subject
2. Critical thinking ability in reviewing relevant researches
3. Application of relevant approaches.
4. Ability in knowledge application.
5. Collaborative skills and interaction with classmates

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Excellent critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Excellent application of theories in literary studies.
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.
5. Excellent collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Good application of theories in literary studies.
4. Good ability in knowledge application.
5. Good collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Fair command of knowledge in literary studies.

2. Fair critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Fair application of theories in literary studies.
4. Fair ability in knowledge application.
5. Fair collaboration with teammates and interactions with the fellow classmates.

#### Marginal (D)

1. Marginal command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to literary studies.
3. Marginal application of theories in literary studies.
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.
5. Marginally acceptable collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

#### Failure (F)

1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge in literary studies.
2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/ research articles related to literary studies.
3. Unsatisfactory application of theories in literary studies.
4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
5. Unsatisfactory collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

European literary theory and criticism; critical theory; Chinese literary thought

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	郭紹虞主編《中國歷代文論選》，上海：上海古籍出版社，1-4冊，1979。
2	The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001.

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	《柏拉圖文藝對話集》，朱光潛譯，北京：人民文學出版社，1959。
2	康德《論優美感和崇高感》，何兆武譯，北京：商務印書館，2001。
3	黑格爾《美學》，朱光潛譯，北京：商務印書館，1979。
4	張健：《文學概論》，臺北：五南圖書出版股份有限公司，1983年。
5	沈謙：《文學概論》，臺北：五南圖書出版股份有限公司，2002年。
6	童慶炳：《文學活動的審美維度》，北京：高等教育出版社，2001年。