

Course Description

Course Unit

Research in Modern Literatures

UC Code

MOD5.921600

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

MA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S1

Faculty

Miguel Ramalhete Gomes

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

This seminar aims to build an awareness of different ways of looking at and engaging with modern literatures, while fostering basic applied skills in some of the various formats and fields in which literary research is practiced. This dual focus will mean, on the one hand, considering aspects and moments in the interaction between theory and literature, with an emphasis on application and its resistances, as well as on diachronic and regional developments, thus contributing to a historically precise understanding of the varying methods of literary criticism. On the other hand, this work will be accompanied by in-session training and regular autonomous work on practical aspects of academic writing in several of its main forms, from orally presented papers to journal articles and

dissertations or theses. For purposes of concrete analysis, this twofold attention will be applied to a specific literary work, to be announced on the first day of the seminar.

Grading and Assessment

This seminar and its evaluation will be in English. Due to its greater practical dimension, this seminar will depend on the continuous active participation of students. While allowances are made for exceptional circumstances, attendance is mandatory for all seminar sessions. As a way of introducing students to academic fora, the format of the seminar's evaluation artificially replicates a typical circumstance of academic work: after orally debating arguments, methods, and ways of writing in seminar discussions (20%), students will prepare a 150-word abstract for a seminar essay (10%). A 3000-word essay will then be circulated, as if submitting a short article for a conference seminar (40%), after which it will be discussed in a simulated conference seminar setting, with questions and answers (30%).

Bibliography

Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory. An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Fourth edition. Manchester UP, 2017.

Correa, Delia da Sousa and W. R. Owens eds. *The Handbook of Literary Research*. Routledge, 2010.

Cuddon, J. A. and M. A. R. Habib. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. Fifth edition. Penguin, 2014.

Eco, Umberto. *How to Write a Thesis*. Trans. Caterina Mongiat Farina and Geoff Farina. The MIT Press, 2015 [1977].

Graff, Gerald & Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 5th edition. Norton, 2021.

Leitch, Vincent B. gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. Third edition. W. W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Nisbet, H. B. and Claude Rawson, gen. eds. *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*, 9 vols. Cambridge UP, 1990-2013.

Strunk Jr, William and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth edition. Longman, 2011.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

The only requirement is an advanced command of the English language, so as to be able to take part in all the seminar activities.