Course Description

The principle objective of this course is to develop a profound understanding of the American structionist and post deconstructionist literary and cultural theories with the help of reading and formulating analyses and following critical practices. The course introduces students to the conceptual aspects which are central and integral parts of the study of American literature and cultural concepts of the above mentioned intellectual movements. By focusing on a specific theoretical context each lesson, the course aims to enable students to become fluent and confident critical readers of literary texts, as well as to develop an awareness of the environment in which these particular conceptual notions were born.
In this course, we will investigate some of the American thinkers associated with structionism and post-deconstructionism to be able to distinguish precisely these movements from one another. Structionism looks at how communities have constructed their knowledge and experiences around certain cultural and traditional ideologies. America as a country has established a range of theories and models that are intended to shape their common knowledge, experiences and assumptions. The first of these theories is constitutionalism whereby the country’s behaviors, conducts, and day-to-day lifestyles are governed by a set of laws. The second structionist theory of the American cultural society is positivism. Research supports that if there is one thing that defines ‘all Americans’ is their positive outlook to life.
Deconstruction is the general outlook of the relationship between a text and its meaning. It examines how both literal and philosophical languages emphasize the internal relations between conceptual systems and the language itself. Deconstructionism primarily evolved at Yale University between the period of 1960 and 1980 where the development of Structuralism and Post-Structuralism had a great effect on this movement. Beside Jacques Derrida (1930-2004), several Yale philosophers, Paul de Man (1919-1983), Geoffrey Hartman (1929- 2016) and J. Hillis Miller (1928- ) also played a crucial part in the progress of Deconstructionism. Metaphysics is the second theory in deconstructionism. It looks at an individual desire for meaning and examines how people in the society [or even the readers of texts] interpret phrases and texts. The metaphysics theory is highly used in poetry, as literal organizations and departments of literature sought to have new ways of interpreting and expounding literal texts.

Course method:

This course provides the students an opportunity to master their constructive cognitive skills. It intends to demonstrate how Philosophy is closely connected to a variety of fields, namely to Psychology, Medical Science, Sociology, Sciences, Languages, History, Art, Literature, Law, Political Science, Religious Studies, ICT, Marketing, PR and Communication. During the course, students will be required to systematically analyze the theoretical, historical, ethical and practical aspects of phisolophy in order to gain a deeper understading about how individuals and the society can find meaning in their existence in the framework of different realities. Philosophy can greatly encourage the evolution of a deeper and critical conceptualization of everyday issues. The course readings are typically of moderate length but they will require lively critical engagement: they cannot be read casually or at spare moments. Students will be expected to attend all lectures and sections, and they will also be expected to participate actively in section discussion.

Class format:

If the central claim of structuralism is that all systems of meaning are structured along the lines of language, post- structionist thought interrogates that claim. But rather than rejecting it outright, post-structionist thinkers attend to the ways in which systems of meaning tend to instability, contingency, opening up gaps and silences, leaving echoes and traces. Therefore we will commence our investigation by looking at Structuralism and then examine some of the ways post-structionist thinkers have sought to intervene in literary studies, visual culture and politics.
Each intellectual movement and the novel study will require students to refine his/her skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. All units require students to use secondary sources to identify and examine the philosophical beliefs of Americans during these particular literary movements or the novel study. Students will then analyze key fiction and non-fiction texts from the period in order to master common core standards. Each literary movement, as well as the novel study will require literary analysis and writing in order provide practice for students to master common core standards.

Educational Objectives

Students in this course will develop a profound understanding of the concepts of the American structionist and post deconstructionist theories. They will increase their skills as careful, attentive readers of complex and highly challenging texts and advance their skills as critical and analytical writers. Most centrally, they will be familiarized with several key thinkers associated with the above mentioned intellectual movements of the American cultural and literary life.

Having terminated the course, students will be able to

- define and analyze the main issues which have been demonstrated by the works of philosophers and their concepts

-make use of their logical cognitive skills

-highlight the relevant philosophical, ethical and existential aspects of the above mentioned movements

-compose essays to show their logical reasoning skills

-gain a deeper understanding of the content covered from a critical point of view

Course Policies and Requirements
Completion of all assignments are highly sought.

Policies

(a) Cheating and Plagiarism
Any kind of citations and source using have to be very well indicated, but not presented as one’s own work which is plagiarism. Consequences of cheating and plagiarism in fulfilling any kinds of written works/essays, academic accomplishments may end in expulsion from the course without further referrals.

Grading policy (100 max): Grades will be calculated as follows:

Essays (2 each of weighing 50 % points). During the term, students are expected to fulfill written essays.

Week Date/Day
Tentative Tentative Schedule Notes
1 What is literary theory?

2 Traditional literary criticism

3 Post modern and postscurtialist theories.

4 Post –Structuralism and deconstruction

5 Multiculturalism, Transnationalizm

6 Mid –Term exam

7 Post- Structuralism and Literature

8 Structuralism In Literary Theory

9 Traditional Literary Criticism

10 New historicism and Cultural Materialism

11 Marxism and critical theory

12 Structuralism and Semiotics

13 New Historicism

14 Main Currents in American Literature and Culture before and after 1800
15 Final Exam