

Course title: Literary Theory	Credit number: 2/4
Type of lessons: lecture format	
Number of lectures: 1 hour per week	
Type of evaluation: written exam	
Place in curriculum: 6 th / spring term	
Course prerequisites: none	
Course description:	
Course content:	
<p>The course is an introduction to literary and cultural theories, entailing the discussion of key questions and issues that have triggered debates and contributed to the development of the field. In view of the challenges in the elementary, the course focuses on three central topics: prose and poetry—the two most common genres in the lower grades of the elementary—paradigms of literary theory, and possible approaches to children’s literature.</p>	
Learning objectives:	
<p>The primary objective of the course is to endow students with basic understanding regarding the diversity of possible readings of literature and to foster their ability to take a varied approach to literary works, but, in fact, to any cultural phenomena.</p>	
Required and optional reading	
(The 3-5 most important required and optional pieces):	
Required reading:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eagleton, Terry. <i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i>. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008. 2. Hunt, Peter, ed. <i>International Companion Encyclopedia of Children’s Literature</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 1996. 3. Richter, David H., ed. <i>The Critical Tradition: Classic Texts and Contemporary Trends</i>. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2007. 4. Burgess, Anthony. <i>English Literature</i>. Harlow: Longman, 1991. 	
Optional reading:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leitch, Vincent B. <i>The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism</i>. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2010. 2. Culler, Jonathan. <i>Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997. 3. Lesnik-Oberstein, Karín, ed. <i>Children’s Literature: New Approaches</i>. New York: Palgrave, 2004. 4. Childs, Peter and Fowler, Roger, eds. <i>The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms</i>. London and New York: Routledge. 	
Course syllabus:	
Week 1 - Introduction: A concept of literature, text, and culture as text	

Week 2 - Prose: genres and structural elements

Week 3 - Poetry and its genres

Week 4 - The means of expressing musicality

Week 5 - Stylistic devices and the basic categories of stylistic analysis

Week 6 – Russian Formalism and New Criticism

Week 7 - Structuralism and Deconstruction

Week 8 - Hermeneutics and Reader-response Theory

Week 9 - Psychoanalytic Criticism

Week 10 - Poststructuralism

Week 11 - Feminism and Gender Studies

Week 12 - Postcolonialism and Ethnic Studies

Week 13 - Approaching children's literature through literary and cultural theory

Course instructor in charge: Dr. habil. Péter Gaál-Szabó, college associate professor

Additional course instructor(s): –