
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2017

BAHons Literary Theory (01240552)

Duration of study 1 year

Total credits 120

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Admission requirements

A three-year bachelor's degree (or comparable tertiary qualification with Senate's approval) with at least 70 credits in a language, Literary Theory or language related discipline except at the discretion of the programme manager.

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

Core modules

Research report 732 (LCC 732)

Module credits 30.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Afrikaans

Period of presentation Year

Module content

Part 1 – Theoretical basis: The concepts “science” and “research”; the relationship “theory”, “research”, “application”, forms of research (inter alia descriptive, empirical, applied); the research process (from research proposal to research report: identification and formulation of the problem, development of hypotheses, data collection and interpretation, etc); the use of the computer in research.

Part 2 – Application: A limited research project in which the principles of research methodology are applied. A candidate must submit the topic and format to the head of department or his/her representative for approval.

Postcolonialism 723 (LCC 723)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Afrikaans

Period of presentation Year

Module content

A focus on the consequences of the colonial encounter between the West and the non-West, from the sixteenth century to the present day. Direct and indirect ways in which literary texts are involved with the discourse on the colony and the effects of power in social and political practices. Said and “worldliness” of literary texts. (Post)colonial identity. Bhabha and the “location of culture”, hybridity.

African writers and thought 724 (LCC 724)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Afrikaans

Period of presentation Year

Module content

The texts and practices of leading African cultural, literary, media, philosophers, and social movements will be discussed with reference to their contribution to the development of African thought and culture. Figures such as Achebe, Biko, Cesaire, Garvey, Fanon, Mazrui, Rodney, Senghor, Mbembe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Soyinka will be featured in this module.

World literature 728 (LCC 728)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Afrikaans

Period of presentation Year

Module content

The relationship between national literatures and the broader frameworks of regional and world literature. "Distant Reading". Cosmopolitanism. Popular literature and "bestsellers". Approaches to multiple literatures (and cultures) in translation.

Gender and literature 729 (LCC 729)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Afrikaans

Period of presentation Year

Module content

An advanced focus on "Western" and "Southern" Feminisms, Queer Theory, Gay and Lesbian Studies in literary texts.

Capita selecta 733 (LCC 733)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Afrikaans

Period of presentation Year



Module content

A choice from the following themes:

Narrativity

Narrativity vs. classical narratology. The transaction between narratives and audiences. Employment. Eventfulness. Tellability. Fictionality. Life and Narrative. ; the function of narrative in the creation of “social memory”; historiographic meta-fiction”; study of texts (literary and historical) from various languages and periods.

or

(Auto) biography in world literature

The history of biography and autobiography; biography, autobiography and their relationship to other genres; theories about subjectivity and identity (“self”), fact and fiction, objectivity and representation; study of relevant texts.

or

Media genre theory

Genre theory as applied to culture and media studies. The factors contributing to the formation of media genres, the internal and external features as well as the reception of media products will be discussed in this module.

Introduction to literary theory 727 (LCC 727)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Separate classes for Afrikaans and English
Academic organisation	Afrikaans
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The place, nature and function of theory of literature, research (hermeneutical, empirical), application; analysis, interpretation, evaluation and canonisation; literary systems (fields); capita selecta from 20th-century perspectives on literature and the study of literature; key issues in literary theory; primary and secondary sources.

Elective modules

Afrikaanse drama 718 (AFR 718)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in Afrikaans
Academic organisation	Afrikaans
Period of presentation	Year



Module content

'n Studie van die Afrikaanse drama met toespitsing op die Afrikaanse toneel, radio, televisie en film. In oorleg met die studente word leerplan bestaande uit aantal oeuvre- en tematologiese studies saamgestel.

Afrikaanse poësie 755 (AFR 755)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in Afrikaans
Academic organisation	Afrikaans
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Voëlvlug oor die Afrikaanse poësie van voor 1900 tot vandag; sisteme, periodisering, kanon(s) en kanoniseringsmeganismes, (hedendaagse) benaderingswyses en leesstrategieë, tradisies, gesprekke, oeuvres; intensiewe bestudering van enkele oeuvres/digbundels en temas.

Afrikaanse prosa 756 (AFR 756)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in Afrikaans
Academic organisation	Afrikaans
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Die vak behels seleksies uit die Afrikaanse prosatradisie. In oorleg met die studente word leerplan bestaande uit aantal oeuvre- en tematologiese studies saamgestel.

Nederlandse letterkunde 775 (AFR 775)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in Afrikaans
Academic organisation	Afrikaans
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Kulturele agtergrond van die Lae Lande; oorsig oor die Nederlandse en Vlaamse prosa en poësie.

German literature (1) 755 (DTS 755)

Module credits	24.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Afrikaans and English is used in one class
Academic organisation	Modern European Languages
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Introduction to German literary studies and the history of German literature.

German literature (2) 756 (DTS 756)

Module credits	24.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Afrikaans and English is used in one class
Academic organisation	Modern European Languages
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

German literature of the 18th and 19th century.

German literature (3) 757 (DTS 757)

Module credits	24.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Afrikaans and English is used in one class
Academic organisation	Modern European Languages
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

German literature of the 20th and 21st century.

German literature (4) 758 (DTS 758)

Module credits	24.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Modern European Languages

Period of presentation Year

Module content

German literature from a Gender Studies' perspective.

South African writing 703 (ENG 703)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites ENG 704 is recommended.

Contact time 1 seminar per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation English

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

The module begins with a general introduction to literary approaches to African writing. Thereafter a selection of texts representing the three genres – poetry, drama and prose – is studied. You are encouraged to attend live performances of South African plays and to read current editions of local journals such as Contrast, English Academy Review, Staffrider, Current Writing, Pretexts and English in Africa for reviews and scholarly articles.

Pan-African writing 704 (ENG 704)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 seminar per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation English

Period of presentation Quarter 3

Module content

The module begins with a general introduction to literary approaches and concepts in African writing. Thereafter a selection of prose, drama and poetry from West, East and Central Africa is studied.

South African short stories 705 (ENG 705)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 seminar per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation English

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

This module provides an overview of the history and range of short story writing in South Africa and covers the work of individual writers such as Bosman, Smith, Head, Rive, Ndebele, Matthews, Essop, Wicomb and Vladislavic. Students are also encouraged to examine new work published in literary journals.

Children's literature 773 (ENG 773)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	English
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

A range of interest in children's literature is represented in this module: children's literature as a social formation, in education and in psychology. The module discusses literature for, by and about children, in different methodologies and modes.

Medieval literature 701 (ENZ 701)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	English
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module introduces the student to the reading and appreciation of Old and Middle English art forms in which the emphasis falls on aesthetic and moral issues, rather than on psychological ones. The module is an integrated one beginning with the study of the Old English epic, Beowulf, and includes Anglo-Saxon models as well as homiletic or heroic poems. The Middle Ages witness the reintroduction of English as the language of court, in preference to French, and the growth of narrative and lyrical poetry. Representations of both types of poetry are studied.

Shakespeare 703 (ENZ 703)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	English
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The module consists of a selection of Shakespeare's plays intended to give some idea of the scope and development of his work. Students will study history plays, comedies, tragedies and two of the so-called "problem plays".

Seventeenth-century literature 704 (ENZ 704)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	English
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The English Renaissance spans the period of approximately 1560-1660. This is the period of great expansion in English literature. This module deals with the period from the Elizabethan Age to the early Restoration. It excludes Shakespeare, to whom a separate module is devoted, but deals with Shakespeare's contemporaries. It further deals with the major poets of the periods and with some of the prose. The Puritan movement and some of its main figures are included.

The Augustan vision 705 (ENZ 705)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	English
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module explores a range of works written between 1660 and 1760 and, in keeping with recent critical approaches to the period, emphasises the age's exuberance, comic and satiric energy, and willingness to experiment with literary forms. Writers discussed include Pope, Johnson, Swift, Wycherley, Congreve and a selection of less well-known female poets and dramatists.

Modernism 771 (ENZ 771)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	English
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The modernist movement is examined in the context of contemporary developments in psychology, physics and anthropology, with an emphasis on the break with traditional literary and artistic conventions. Literary developments will be discussed in relation to seminal texts in poetry, prose and drama, including the work of Yeats, Eliot, Hardy, Lawrence, Joyce, Conrad and Beckett.

Postmodernism 772 (ENZ 772)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 seminar per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation English

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

This module will introduce students to certain key concepts in relation to postmodernism and postmodern literature. A wide range of texts will be studied. These may include works by British, American, Canadian and South African writers.

French language 757 (FRN 757)

Module credits 24.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Modern European Languages

Period of presentation Year

Module content

Nature and functioning of language
Philosophy of language: approaches to the nature of language.

isiNdebele literature: Capita selecta 751 (NDE 751)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in IsiNdebele

Academic organisation African Languages

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Analysis of the basic features and structure of the different literary genres in isiNdebele: poetry (modern and traditional), short stories, novels and drama.

Sepedi literature: Capita selecta 751 (SEP 751)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in Sepedi
Academic organisation	African Languages
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Analysis of the basic features and structure of the different literary genres in Sepedi: poetry (modern and traditional), short stories, novels and drama. Introduction to the narratological perspective as a tool of literary analysis. Will only be offered if a sufficient number of students enrol.

Setswana literature: Capita selecta 751 (STW 751)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in Setswana
Academic organisation	African Languages
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Analysis of the basic features and structure of the different literary genres in Setswana: poetry (modern and traditional), short stories, novels and drama. Introduction to the narratological perspective as a tool of literary analysis. Will only be offered if a sufficient number of students enrol.

isiZulu literature: Capita selecta 751 (ZUL 751)

Module credits	20.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in isiZulu
Academic organisation	African Languages
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Analysis of the basic features and structure of the different literary genres in isiZulu: poetry (modern and traditional), short stories, novels and drama. Introduction to the narratological perspective as a tool of literary analysis. Will only be offered if sufficient number of students enrol.

Hispanic literature 701 (SPN 701)

Module credits 20.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in Spanish

Academic organisation Modern European Languages

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

This module offers an introduction to Hispanic literature from Spain and Latin America. The module is conducted in Spanish and all reading and writing for the module is also done in Spanish.

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