This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name | Literary Criticism  
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Unit Code | EL380  
Awards | Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - English teaching area  
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - English major  
This unit is able to be undertaken towards other CHC awards according to course rules and the meeting of prerequisite requirements, as applicable.  
Core/Elective | Core  
Prerequisites | 40 credit points of 200-level English units  
Mode | Internal  
Delivery/Contact hrs | Class contact: 33 hours  
Engagement with unit materials: 44 hours  
Assignment preparation: 63 hours  
Total: 140 hours  
Unit Rationale | Ever since classical times, theories of literary appreciation and criticism have been propounded to offer explanations of the ways in which literature should be written and interpreted. This long tradition of criticism includes some of the most important thinkers and writers of the Western literary tradition, including Aristotle, Dante, Sidney, Dryden, Coleridge, Arnold, James, and Eliot. In the twentieth century a wider group of professional literary critics and theorists have also played an important part in extending the debate over the nature, meaning and functions of literature.  
This unit endeavours to serve three main purposes in introducing students to the broad field of literary criticism. First, it raises in a systematic way the fundamental issues of the nature and interpretation of a variety of forms of literature. Second, it provides an overview of the historical development of literary criticism, with particular emphasis on the twentieth-century. Third, it highlights the critical reflections of those writers who have tried to interpret literature within the context of Christian belief, including in particular Sir Philip Sidney, TS Eliot, JRR Tolkien, Flannery O’Connor, and Dorothy L Sayers. These objectives will serve to provide a basis for examination of the fundamental questions arising in regard to the development of a Christian approach to literary criticism.  
Literal Criticism is the basis of all literary study - with an emphasis placed on the philosophy of literature and of literary theory. Students of English are obliged, therefore, to know and understand the issues involved in the questions: What is ‘Literature’? What is ‘Literary Theory’? How did Literary Theory evolve in English (in particular)? Who were the chief theorists in English and what were their theories? Who were the Christian theorists?  
Learning Outcomes:  
On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:  
1. Identified key issues in the interpretation and appreciation of literature.  
2. Discussed the history of literary criticism and the key debates which have shaped it.  
3. Drawn upon the leading writers and works of literary criticism in addressing issues of literary theory.  
4. Developed a high level of conceptual ability in the comparison and contrast of theoretical approaches to literature.  
5. Appreciated the Christian tradition of literary criticism and identified its main advocates.  
6. Applied knowledge of theoretical issues to the reading and interpretation of selected literary texts.  
7. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
## Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the unit: Definitions; Worldview Underpinnings; History of Literary Criticism: The Classical Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>History of Literary Criticism - The Middle Ages</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The Renaissance</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Metaphysicals; The Elizabethans</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The Seventeenth-Century</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Eighteenth-Century</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Rejection of Neo-Classicism; Theorists of Society and Culture; Writers/Literary Theorists</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The Romantics</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>The Victorians</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The Twentieth-Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Literary Theories and Christian perspectives (Summary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Set Text Requirements:


## Recommended Readings:


## Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper (3000 words)</td>
<td>A discussion of historical trends in Literary Criticism.</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment (3000 words)</td>
<td>A discussion of literary theories, including a Christian approach to Literary Criticism.</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Unit Overview:

Literary Criticism goes beyond Interpretation (finding the meaning) of literary texts to consideration of their literary value and the passing of judgment on that value. This unit investigates the historical development of literary criticism in Europe (with a particular emphasis on English Literary Criticism and on twentieth-century and twenty-first-century Literary Criticism), while examining the theories of various prominent theorists throughout the ages.