

# Course Outline: Introduction to Literary Theory

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

*Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.*

### Course Code

EN 2001 3.0A

### Course Description

This course will introduce you to Homer's great epic *The Iliad* and the tradition of literary theory that tries to make sense of this monumental text. Through readings in Aristotle, Plato, Longinus, the Bible, Ovid's myths, and Oscar Wilde, we will be asking what it is that the *Iliad* does that is so essential to our conception of what literature is. To focus this question, we will examine how literary language does things, and what those things are, paying special attention to literary figures, from metaphor and simile to the sublime, and to special versions of the literary: the biblical, the divine, the mythic, the heroic. Our guiding question will be what exactly literary language is and how it differs — if in fact it does — from other kinds of language.

### Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: LECT

A two-hour lecture will be followed by a 1-hour tutorial.

### Course Materials

Most of the texts in this course are translated from the Greek or the Latin.

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Emily Wilson (Norton); Longinus, *On the Sublime*; Plato, *The Republic*, Book X; Aristotle, *Poetics*; Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*, trans. A.D. Melville; the first book of the bible, *Genesis*; J.L. Austin, *How to Do Things with Words* (Lectures I & II); and Oscar Wilde, "The Decay of Lying."

## Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
First short paper	10%	Written assignment	Early October
Second Short Paper	20%	Written assignment	November
Term Paper	25%	Written assignment	December
Final Exam	30%	In Person/Final Exam Period	December
Participation	15%	Taken in Tutorial	

<b>Category:</b>	A
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	N/A
<b>Open To:</b>	YR 2/3 (EN/ENPR/CRW students only)