

LITS2306 HISTORY OF CRITICISM

SEMESTER I, 2012-2013

EXAM ADVICE

Here are the general instructions:

Answer **TWO** questions in all.

All questions refer to the theorists studied in Module II.

In each answer, you should refer to at least TWO relevant texts.

The exam consists of six questions based on the theorists studied in Module 2 entitled 'The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Rhetorical versus Philosophical Models of Literature':

A question on literary realism to be answered by comparing Wilde's views in "The Decay of Lying" with either Zola's in The Experimental Novel or Baudelaire's in The Salon of 1859.

A question on specific aspects of the form of prose fiction to be answered by comparing Lubbock's views in The Craft of Fiction with those of Forster in Aspects of the Novel.

A question on the so-called 'Neo-Aristotelians' to be answered by comparing Crane's views in "The Concept of Plot and the Plot of Tom Jones" with Booth's in The Rhetoric of Fiction.

A question on the pragmatic function of literature to be answered by comparing Tolstoy's views in What is Art? with those of either Lawrence in "Morality and the Novel" or Wimsatt and Beardsley in "The Affective Fallacy."

A question on the reading process to be answered by comparing Arnold's views in "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" with those of either Pater in Studies in the History of the Renaissance or Wilde in "The Critic as Artist."

Another question on the reading process to be answered by comparing Richards' Practical Criticism with Rosenblatt's Literature as Exploration.

I advise you to:

- prepare at least three topics rather than a minimum of two;
- carefully read the relevant primary sources in conjunction with my notes on the essays in question (the best way to assimilate information in this and every course is to jot down your own notes) and my general handouts on 'Representation and Form' and "The Reader," as well as any other relevant secondary sources on- or off-line;
- study the past exam papers for this course (stored online here: <http://www.rlwclarke.net/Courses/LITS2306/ExamPastPapers.htm>) in order to familiarise yourself with the kinds of questions that may be asked: it

might be useful in this regard to identify and collect all topic-based questions (in this case, on realism and on the reader) and / or all questions on particular theorists (e.g Zola or Arnold).