

LITS2306 HISTORY OF CRITICISM

SEMESTER I, 2012-2013

TERM PAPER

The Term Paper is based on Module One: The Ancient Period: Philosophy versus Rhetoric.

Answer **ONE (1)** of the following questions:

1. What do you understand by the term 'rhetoric'? Answer with reference to the views of *at least* TWO of the following thinkers or groups of thinkers:
 - The Sophists;
 - Aristotle, "Rhetoric";
 - Quintilian, "Institutio Oratoria";
 - Longinus, "On the Sublime."
2. What do you understand by the term 'philosophy'? Answer with reference to the views of EITHER Plato OR Aristotle.
3. "Plato's worldview is a cohesive one: his distrust of literature and his desire to banish poets from his ideal state are inseparable from his views on the nature of reality, knowledge and the self." Discuss.
4. What light, if any, does Aristotle's ontological, epistemological and psychological views shed on his philosophy of literature?
5. Referring closely to Aristotle's Poetics, identify the emotional impact on the audience of a novel or play of your choice and discuss the precise role played by the literary form of this work in the production of this effect.
6. Would you agree that Longinus is a "rhetorical critic"? Answer by comparing his views with those of *at least* ONE rhetorician read in this module.
7. Referring closely to the work of at least ONE literary theorist which you have studied in this module and illustrating your answer with reference to ONE literary work of your choice, carefully explain one of the following approaches to criticism:
 - the mimetic;
 - the pragmatic;
 - the objective;
 - the expressive.

DEADLINE: 5 pm Thursday November 1, 2012

LENGTH: 7 pages maximum (typewritten, double-spaced)

CLOSE READING: In your answer, you should refer closely to the primary source(s) (poems and/or literary theory) by the writer(s) in question.

ESSAY WRITING: It is your responsibility to submit a *well-written* essay in response to one of the questions listed above. Please note that LITS2306, like all other Level II and III courses in Literatures in English, is not designed to teach you how to write an essay. It is assumed, rather, that you are equipped with the basic skills of essay writing of the sort tackled in the Level I Foundation Language courses. If you have problems, severe or otherwise, expressing yourself on paper coherently and correctly, please seek advice as to how you may fix them. Please also consult my Essay Writing Guidelines posted online for essential advice on putting your term paper together.

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