

LITS 2306 HISTORY OF LITERARY CRITICISM

COURSE WORK ASSIGNMENT (SEMESTER 1, 2006/2007)

Answer ONE (1) of the following questions, *referring closely to the text(s) of the theorist(s) in question*:

1. Discuss the extent to which Aristotle=s metaphysical and epistemological views influence his discussion of literature in the Poetics.
2. Discuss the relationship between the form and the content of a literary work according to either Aristotle or Pope.
3. To what extent does the Poetics offer an effective means of critically analyzing a literary text? Illustrate your answer with a close reading of one literary work of your choice.
4. According to Alexander Pope in his An Essay on Criticism, what are the responsibilities of a literary critic? Do you agree with his assessment?
5. With close reference to his work, discuss which critical orientation(s) (as outlined by M. H. Abrams) can be attributed to Samuel Johnson=s approach to literature.
6. Discuss Plato=s influence on one neo-classical critic/writer presented in this course.
7. To what extent can Sir Philip Sidney=s An Apology for Poetry be considered an effective rebuttal of Plato=s indictment of the art form?
8. Present a critical reading of one literary work of your choice using Dante=s approach to literature.
9. With close reference to his metaphysical and epistemological views, discuss the ways in which Plato advances the notion that literature possesses a mimetic quality.
10. Compare and contrast the views on the nature of reality, the mind and knowledge of one Empiricist and one Rationalist studied in this course.

DEADLINE: 6pm, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006.

LENGTH: 5-7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12pt)