

**AJ04003 Introduction to Literature II**  
Spring 2007

Group E (Monday, 3.00-4.30 pm, room G32)

Instructor: Tomáš Kačer (kacer@phil.muni.cz, Office hours: Tuesday 3-4, Wednesday 3-4)

Readings:

- Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*
- Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- Selections from Gilbertová, Hardy, Sparling, *Introduction to Literature*, various short stories, poems and excerpts from novels.

Objectives:

- To improve critical and interpretative thinking about literature
- To learn writing skills needed for critical writing about literature
- To know how to find and use primary and secondary materials in literary research

Assessment:

- Research project portfolio 60 % (the portfolio includes: weekly assignments, in-class response papers, essay drafts and the final essay)
  - Active class participation 20 %
  - Test 20 %
- (You must pass each of the criteria)

Deadlines:

- Research project portfolio entries and written preparation for essay: Sunday preceding the seminar, 3 pm
- Essay, final draft: 28 May, 3 pm

Syllabus (list of primary readings and assignments):

**Week 1 – February 19**

Introduction to the course (Research, sources, work with sources, MLA style)

**Week 2 – February 26**

*Heart of Darkness* 1 (read part 1, pages 1-44\*)

- Portfolio 1: libraries and databases

**Week 3 – March 5**

*Heart of Darkness* 2 (part 2, pages 44-78\*)

- Portfolio 2: reference works in print (anthologies, guides, histories, etc.)

**Week 4 – March 12**

*Heart of Darkness* 3: revision (part 3, pages 78-111\*)

- Portfolio 3: electronic reference works (journals etc.)

**Week 5 – March 19**

*Lolita* 1 (part 1, pages 1-142\*\*)

- Portfolio 4: bibliography – J. Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

**Week 6 – March 26**

*Lolita* 2 (part 2, pages 143-309\*\*)

- Portfolio 5: bibliography – V. Nabokov's *Lolita*

**Week 7 – April 2**

*Heart of Darkness* and *Lolita*: revision (re-read both novels)

- Portfolio 6: annotated bibliography

**Week 8 – April 9**

National holiday – no class

- Portfolio 7: Essay proposal

**Week 9 – April 16**

Poetry – Epic and Lyrical Poetry, the Sonnet

*Introduction to Literature*, Session 3c (Summer): “In April”, “I Sing of a Maiden” (109-11).  
Session 4 (Winter): “The Lynching” by McKay, “I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed” by St. Vincent Millay, “Sonnets from China XII” by Auden, (32-34). Session 4b (Summer):  
“Sonnet 71” by Sidney (117-18). “Sonnet 76” by Shakespeare\*\*\*.

- Portfolio 8: home-written response paper 1

**Week 10 – April 23**

Drama – William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*\*\*\*

- Portfolio 9: Essay – first draft (2-3 pages)

**Week 11 – April 30**

Fiction 1 – Romanticism and the Victorian Period

*Introduction to Literature*, Session 8a (Summer): *Frankenstein* by Shelley (154-158). Session 10a (Summer): *Middlemarch* by Eliot (177-78). Session 9d (Winter): “The Black Cat” by Poe (59-67).

- Portfolio 10: home-written response paper 2

**Week 12 – May 7**

Fiction 2 – Modernist Prose

*Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald, Chapter 1. *Introduction to Literature*, Session 12b-c (Summer):  
*Mrs Dalloway* by Woolf, *Ulysses* by Joyce (197-209).

- Portfolio 11: Essay – second draft (3-5 pages). Bring your portfolio to class.

**Week 13 – May 14**

Review, feedback

Get back portfolio and essay second draft feedback

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\* Page numbering from the Penguin Popular Classics edition, 1994. Online access:  
<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/ConDark.html>, or  
[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Books/Heart\\_Darkness.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Books/Heart_Darkness.html)

\*\* Page numbering from the Penguin Modern Classics edition, 2000.

\*\*\* Online access: <http://www.opensourceshakespeare.org>, or <http://www.phil.muni.cz/kapradi>