

Introduction to Literature (lectures and seminars), spring semester 2016

Course coordinator: Dr. Martina Horáková, mhorakov@phil.muni.cz, office 3009

Tutors: Alexandra Stachurová (01), Velid Beganovic (02), Alžběta Zedníková (03), Patrik Míša (04), Eva Valentová (05)

Course description:

This course consists of alternating lectures and seminars that encourage students to engage in literary research and analysis. The lectures provide students with an introduction to literary histories, movements, contexts and approaches to literary texts. The seminars function as more practical insights into analyzing literary texts and writing critical research papers about them. They are based on discussions and group work.

Course objectives:

1. To learn the methods of conducting library research and working with primary and secondary sources.
2. To acquire the techniques needed for literary analysis and writing academic essays.
3. To refine critical thinking about literature and achieve a deeper understanding of how literature affects us and how it enriches our perception of the world.

Assessment:

Students must prepare for all classes, especially for the seminars. The assigned texts must be read before the class so that students can engage actively in discussions and other continuous assessment. Written assignments must be submitted in the correct format and on time. 1 credit (zápočet) is given at the end of the lecture series; 2 credits for the exam at the end of the seminar series. Final mark: class performance 10%; 3x response papers 40%; final research paper 50%. Points out of 10/100; 60% pass/fail line. Evaluation scale: A 100-85; B 84-80; C-79-75; D-74-70; E 69-60; F (fail) 59-0.

Readings:

Primary: please see the syllabus—texts will be available in the ELF (poetry, short extracts), otherwise you have to get a copy from the library or a bookshop.

Secondary: *MLA Handbook*, 7th edition. (ELF); for secondary essays complementing primary readings, see ELF.

Attendance: Attending lectures is strongly recommended and will be noted in attendance sheets. Attendance in ALL seminars during the semester is compulsory. The only exception is illness, in which case students must present a doctor's certificate in the study department. Failing to attend the seminars may result in failing the course.

Response papers: 2 double-spaced pages; MLA style; choose a narrow focus, include citations and paraphrases as textual evidence; format in-text references and works cited; if it is relevant, quote/paraphrase from a secondary source.

Lectures: Mondays 17.30-19, D22	text(s) to be analyzed in the seminars	Seminars: Mondays and Wednesdays	assignments
1. Feb 22: Modern Irish Drama Dr. Stephen Hardy	Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	29.2./2.3.: text analysis: features of modern drama; academic writing: paragraph development, transitions between paragraphs; writing a response paper/RP samples;	-Ch 2 "Oscar Wilde – The Artist As Irishman" from <i>Inventing Ireland</i> by Declan Kiberd, pp. 33-50 (elf)
2. March 7: The Bloomsbury Group Mgr. Velid Beganović	Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>	14.3./16.3.: text analysis: features of modernist fiction; academic writing: citing vs. paraphrasing; introducing a citation/paraphrase;	-Ch 1 "Civilization and 'My Civilisation': Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant-Garde" from <i>Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant-Garde</i> by Christine Froula, pp.1-34 (Central Library-> ebrary) -Response paper 1 on Wilde or Woolf (upload 2 pages to ELF on a Monday/Wednesday noon in the weeks of lectures; late submissions lose 2 points)
3. March 21: American Modernism Doc. Tomáš Pospíšil	F. Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>	28.3./30.3.: READING WEEK, no class text analysis: features of American modernism; feedback to RPs 1; academic writing: when to use secondary sources, avoiding plagiarism;	-Ch 8 "Pastoral Mode and Language in <i>The Great Gatsby</i> " by Janet Giltrow and David Stouck from <i>F. Scott Fitzgerald in the Twenty-First Century</i> ed. by Bryer, Prigozy, and Stern, pp. 139-152. (Central Library->ebrary)
4. April 4: Post-war Drama Dr. Tomáš Kačer	Harold Pinter, <i>The Birthday Party</i>	11.4./13.4.: text analysis: features of post-war drama; academic writing: literary present vs. past simple	Martin Esslin, "The Significance of the Absurd", <i>The Theatre of the Absurd</i> , Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books, 1961, pp. 399-429. (elf) -Response paper 2 on Fitzgerald or Pinter
5. April 18: Canadian Postmodernism Dr. Martina Horáková	Margaret Atwood, <i>Surfacing</i>	25.4./27.4.: text analysis: postmodern narrative strategies; feedback to RPs 2; academic writing: the mechanics of writing (e.g. strong verbs, the passive, punctuation)	Linda Hutcheon, "Process, Product, and Politics: The Postmodernism of Margaret Atwood", <i>The Canadian Postmodern</i> , pp. 138-159 (elf)
6. May 2: Australian Postcolonial Novel Dr. Martina Horáková	David Malouf, <i>Remembering Babylon</i>	9.5./11.5.: text analysis: features of postcolonial fiction; academic writing: preparing a final research paper	-Ch 2 "Unsettling the Settler Postcolony: Uncanny Pre-Occupations in David Malouf's <i>Remembering Babylon</i> ", from <i>Imagining Justice</i> by Julie McGonegal (ebrary) -Response paper 3 on Atwood or Malouf
			Final research papers: 5 pages (excluding bibliography); min. 2 secondary sources; MLA style; deadline: June 1 , upload in ELF and IS (Odevzdavarna)