

Introduction to Literature (lectures and seminars), Autumn semester 2015

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#### 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 for attendance; 2 credits for passing the seminar series. Final mark: class performance 20%; Ass 1 30%; Ass 2 50%. Points out of 100; 60% pass/fail line. Note: students MUST pass all individual assignments; if they fail one or both of them, they have to rewrite and resubmit them until they get more than 60%. Late submissions will be penalized. 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: Barnet, Sylvan, et al. *A Short Guide to Writing About Literature*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Toronto: Pearson Education, 2004. (ELF)

*MLA Handbook*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. (ELF)

Attendance: It is crucial that students attend both lectures and seminars. The attendance of ALL seminars during the semester is compulsory. The only exception is illness, in which case students must present the study department with a doctor's certificate. Failing to attend the seminars may result in failing the course.

| Lecture<br>Mondays, 15.50-17.20,<br>C33  | Lecturer                     | text(s) to be analyzed in<br>the seminars  | Seminar<br>Mondays: 5.10., 19.10, 2.11, 16.11, 30.11,<br>14.12<br>Weds: 7.10, 21.10, 4.11, 18.11, 2.12, 16.12   | Assignments and readings   |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. <b>Introduction to the Study of Literature</b><br>28.9. national holiday,<br>no lecture!! |                              | Introduction to the study of<br>literature   | <b>5.10/7.10</b> reading literature and writing<br>about literature; primary X secondary<br>sources; working with library sources<br>(catalogue, databases); evaluating sources | Barnet: Chapters 1 ("The Writer as<br>Reader") and 2 ("The Reader as Writer");<br>getting to know MLA (basic format of a<br>paper: header, title, layout, ...)   |
| 2. <b>Elizabethan Drama</b><br>12.10.  | Dr. Filip<br>Krajník         | William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>   | <b>19.10/21.10</b> text analysis; critical<br>vocabulary (character(s), plot); using the<br>literary present  | Barnet: Chapter 11 ("Writing about<br>Drama"); MLA (section 3.6. Titles)   |
| 3. <b>Romantic Poetry</b><br>26.10.  | Doc.<br>Michael M.<br>Kaylor | John Keats, "On First Looking<br>into Chapman's Homer", "On<br>Seeing the Elgin Marbles for the<br>First Time", "Ode to Psyche",<br>"To Autumn"  | <b>2.11/4.11</b> text analysis; critical<br>vocabulary (figures of speech, rhythm and<br>rhyme)   | Barnet: Chapter 12 ("Writing about<br>Poetry"); MLA (section 3.7. Quotations);<br><b>Assignment 1:</b> a short (2 double-spaced<br>pages) written analysis of one of Keats'<br>poems, submit in ELF, <b>deadline Nov 8;</b><br>resubmission deadline Nov 29;   |
| 4. <b>Gothic Novel</b><br>9.11.  | Dr. Bonita<br>Rhoads         | Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>  | <b>16.11/18.11</b> text analysis; critical<br>vocabulary (points of view); quoting X<br>paraphrasing, avoiding plagiarism;<br>feedback to Assignment 1                          | Barnet: Chapter 10 ("Writing about<br>Fiction")  |
| 5. <b>Victorian Novel</b><br>23.11   | Dr.<br>Stephen<br>Hardy      | (all first chapters only) Charles<br>Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i> ; William<br>Makepeace Thackeray, <i>Vanity<br/>Fair</i> ; George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> ;<br>Jane Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>  | <b>30.11/2.12</b> text analysis; critical<br>vocabulary (setting); developing an<br>argument  | Barnet: Chapter 8 ("Writing about<br>Literature")  |
| 6. <b>American Renaissance</b><br>7.12   | Dr. Jeffrey<br>A. Smith      | Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young<br>Goodman Brown"; Ralph Waldo<br>Emerson, "Nature" (selections);<br>Walt Whitman, "Proto-Leaf"<br>(stanzas 1-36), "Song of Myself"<br>(sections 1-8), "Crossing<br>Brooklyn Ferry"; Emily<br>Dickinson, selected poems; | <b>14.12/16.12</b> text analysis; critical<br>vocabulary (overview of narrative<br>categories, historical context); close<br>reading  | MLA (sections 5.4, 5.5, 5.6-5.6.5, 5.7-5.7.5.,<br>all Documentation of Work Cited)<br><b>Assignment 2:</b> a four-page analysis of a<br>literary text studied in the course; integrate<br>quotation(s) from <b>at least two</b> secondary<br>sources as well as their bibliographical<br>details; MLA format; submit in ELF,<br><b>deadline Jan 8, 2015</b> (regular term); first<br>resit Jan 29; second resit Feb 12, 2015 |