

Introduction to Literature (lectures and seminars), Autumn semester 2022

Course coordinator: Dr. Martina Horáková, mhorakov@phil.muni.cz, office G301

Seminar instructors: Mgr. Dominika Dovčíková, Mgr. Alena Gasparovičová, Mgr. Kristína Melišová, Mgr. Jana Valová, Mgr. Monika Večeřová

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 seminars so that students can engage actively in group and class discussions and other continuous assessment assignments. Written assignments must be submitted in the correct format and **on time**. Please submit all written work in .doc or .docx format, unless indicated otherwise by your instructors. 1 credit (credit/zápočet) is given at the end of the lecture series for attending the lectures; 5 credits (exam/zkouška) for attending and passing all seminar assignments. **Final mark:** class performance 20 %; Assignment 1—30 %; Assignment 2—50 %. The pass/fail line is 60%. Note: students **MUST** pass all individual assignments at 60% minimum; if they fail one or more of them, they must rewrite and resubmit them until they pass. Failing to submit assignments during the semester results in not being able to sit the exam (i.e. submit the final paper). **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 should get a copy from the library or a bookshop (novels); Secondary: Barnet, Sylvan, et al. *A Short Guide to Writing About Literature*. 2nd ed. Toronto: Pearson Education, 2004 (ELF) and *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition (ELF).

Attendance: It is crucial that students attend both lectures and seminars. Attendance in ALL seminars is compulsory. In cases of illness, please present a doctor's certificate at the study department. Failing to attend the seminars may result in failing the course.

Plagiarism Policy: Any attempt to plagiarize (in all senses and shades, including unintended copying from online sources and/or notes) will result in failing the course and presenting the case to the Faculty's disciplinary committee.

Lectures Thursdays, 16-17.40, B2.13	Lecturer	text(s) to be analyzed in the seminars	Seminars Mondays/Wednesdays	Assignments and readings
1. Introduction to the Study of Literature Sept 29	Doc. Michael M. Kaylor	Introduction to the study of literature	3.10./5.10.: reading literature and writing about literature; primary X secondary sources; working with library sources (catalogue, databases); evaluating sources	Barnet: Chapters 1 ("The Writer as Reader") and 2 ("The Reader as Writer"); getting to know MLA (MLA Handbook, pp. 5-13)
2. Elizabethan Drama October 13	Dr. Filip Krajník	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>	17.10/19.10.: text analysis; critical vocabulary (character(s), plot); using the literary present	Barnet: Chapter 11 ("Writing about Drama"); MLA (section Titles of Sources 1.2.1.-1.2.4.); basic format of a paper (header, title, layout...)
3. Romantic Poetry October 27	Doc. Michael M. Kaylor	John Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer", "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles for the First Time", "Ode to Psyche", "To Autumn"	31.10/2.11.: text analysis; critical vocabulary (figures of speech, rhythm and rhyme)	Barnet: Chapter 12 ("Writing about Poetry"); MLA (section 1.3. Quotations); Assignment 1: a two page (double-spaced) analysis of one of Keats' poems, submit in ELF, deadlines 7./9.11. 2022
4. Gothic Novel November 10	Doc. Michael M. Kaylor	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>	14.11/16.11.: text analysis; critical vocabulary (points of view); quoting X paraphrasing, avoiding plagiarism; feedback to Assignment 1	Barnet: Chapter 10 ("Writing about Fiction"); MLA (section 2, Works Cited)
5. Victorian Novel November 24	Dr. Stephen Hardy	Charles Dickens, <i>Hard Times</i>	28.11/30.11.: text analysis; critical vocabulary (setting); developing an argument	Barnet: Chapter 8 ("Writing about Literature"); MLA (section 3, In-text Citations)
6. American Renaissance December 8	Dr. Jeffrey A. Smith	Ralph Waldo Emerson, <i>Nature</i> (selections); Henry David Thoreau, <i>Walden</i> (selections) Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"; Walt Whitman, <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (selections); Emily Dickinson, poems #315, 328/359, 340, 620, 1545	12.12/14.12.: text analysis; critical vocabulary (overview of narrative categories, historical context); close reading; why and how integrate secondary sources in research papers	MLA (practice before submitting the final papers) Assignment 2: a five-page argumentative analysis of a literary text studied in the course; integrate quotation(s) from at least two secondary sources as well as their bibliographical details; MLA format compulsory; submit in ELF, deadline Jan 4, 2022, Jan 18, 2023; Feb 1, 2023 (resit only)