**Survey of English Literature II**

 **(Lit 6-261)**

Spring Semester

2019-2020

## Lecturer

Effie Yiannopoulou (room 307Γ)

## Times and Venues

## Friday 11:00-13:30 / room: 107

## Office Hours

Wednesday 10:30 - 13:15

Friday 13:45 - 15:00

## Description and aims of the module

This module surveys English literature and culture from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century. Its aim is to acquaint students with the issues and debates which have informed literary and cultural production in Britain in the last two centuries by examining closely selected literary, theoretical and cultural texts of Romanticism, Victorianism, Modernism and Postmodernism. The study of these texts will be organized around specific sets of concerns (for example, revolution, nation, gender, race, nature, etc.). Through contextual and interactive readings students will be able to follow through transformations in literary representation as these take place in the context of changing historical, cultural, social and political circumstances.

# Objectives

* Familiarization of students with Romantic, Victorian, Modern and Postmodern literature
* Familiarization with the social, cultural and historical contexts of the 19th, 20th and early 21st centuries
* Ability to connect literary texts to the context in which they were produced
* Improvement of the students’ critical thought

## Requirements

* Students need to do the required amount of reading within the limits set by the module outline and always before its discussion in class.  This will facilitate their contribution to class discussions which will be an essential requirement of this module.
* Registration on the university’s E-learning platform is necessary.

# Assessment

Evaluation is by an end-of-term exam. Alternatively, students can give an in-class presentation and write a short, essay-type assignment to get 50% of their grade. Students opting for the second mode of assessment must sit the end-of-term exam to receive the other 50% of their overall grade. Home essays are assessed on the basis of organization, argumentation, quality of expression in English and skills of analysis and synthesis. The end-of-term examination is assessed on the basis of factual knowledge and familiarity with the taught material, in addition to the above criteria

**Outline**

|  |
| --- |
| The Romantic Period |

**Week 1-2: *Revolution and the Romantics***

* Edmund Burke, From *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (197-204)
* Mary Wollstonecraft, From *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (204-209)
* William Blake, ‘The Chimney Sweeper’ (131, 137)
* Percy Shelley, ‘England in 1819’ (805)

**Week 3: *The Poetics of Romanticism: Theories about Poetry and the Poet***

* William Wordsworth, From ‘Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*’ (303-315)
* William Wordsworth, ‘The Solitary Reaper’ (352)

|  |
| --- |
| Introductions from *The Romantic Period* (3-30; 193-194) |

|  |
| --- |
| The Victorian Age |

**Week 4-5: *The Victorians: Realism, Industrialism*, *Progress***

* Thomas Macauley, [Evidence of Progress] (628-633)
* Charlotte Bronte, From *Jane Eyre* (Suppl. 422)
* Charles Dickens, From *Dombey and Son* (Suppl. 406-7)

|  |
| --- |
| Introductions from *The Victorian Age* (3-29; 626-628; 653-656) |

**Week 6: *From Slavery to Empire: Victorian Nationhood***

* Joseph Chamberlain, From *The True Conception of Empire* (708-710)
* J. A. Hobson, From *Imperialism: A Study* (711-713)
* Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (970-972)

|  |
| --- |
| Introductions from *The Romantic Period* (95-96) and *The Victorian Age* (682-686) |

|  |
| --- |
| The Twentieth Century: Modernism |

**Week 7-8: *Modernist Fiction***

* Virginia Woolf, ‘Modern Fiction’ (277-282),
* Mina Loy “Feminist Manifesto” (205-208)
* Katherine Mansfield, “Bliss”

**Week 9: *Modernist Poetry***

* T. S. Eliot, ‘Tradition and the Individual Talent’ (684-689)
* T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (654-657)

|  |
| --- |
| Introductions from *The Twentieth and Twentieth-First Centuries* (3-33; 183-185) |

|  |
| --- |
| The Twentieth Century: Postmodernism/Postcolonial Britain |

**Week 10-11: *Postmodernism***

* Baz Luhrmann’s *William Shakespeare’s Romeo + Juliet*
* Barbara Kruger, *You Are Not Yourself*
* Roland Barthes, “The Death of the Author”

**Week 12: Postmodernism and gender**

* Margaret Atwood, “Women’s Novels”
* Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*

**Week 13: *Decolonisation and Postcolonial Englishness***

* George Orwell “Shooting an Elephant” (735-740)
* Jackie Kay, “In My Country”

|  |
| --- |
| Introductions from *The Twentieth and Twentieth-First Centuries* (848-853) |

**Reading Material**

Most of the reading material is found in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, *Vol. II*, tenth edition. The page numbers correspond to the tenth edition but previous editions of the anthology can also be used. The rest of the reading material can be found on Moodle (the E-Learning platform).

**Suggested Further Reading**

**Romanticism**

Alexander, J.H. *Reading Wordsworth.* London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1987 (PR5881.A4)

Bygrave, Stephen, ed. *Romantic Writings.* London: Routledge in association with the Open University Press, 1996 (PR457.R644)

Clemit, Pamela*. The Cambridge Companion to British Literature of the French Revolution in the 1790s.* Cambridge: CUP, 2011 (PR448.S64C36 )

Curran, Stuart, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism*. Cambridge: CUP, 1993 (PR457.C33)

Eaves, Morris, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to William Blake*. Cambridge: CUP, 2003 (PR4147.C36)

Everest, Kelvin. *English Romantic Poetry: An Introduction to the Historical Context and the Literary Scene*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press, 1990 (PR571.E94)

Gill, Stephen, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Wordsworth.* Cambridge: CUP, 2003 (PR5888.C27)

Johnson, Claudia L. *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Wollstonecraft.* Cambridge: CUP, 2002 (PR5841.W8Z64)

Kelly, Gary. *Women, Writing, and Revolution, 1790-1827*. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Oxford University Press, 1993 (PR129.F8K44)

Kitson, Peter, ed. *Coleridge, Keats, Shelley.* London: Macmillan, 1996 (PR590.C57)

McCalman, Iain *et al*. eds. *An Oxford Companion to the Romantic Age: British Culture 1776-1832.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. **[Reference guide]**

Natarajan, Uttara. *The Romantic Poets: A Guide to Criticism.* Oxford: Blackwell, 2007 (PR590.R595)

Prickett, Stephen, ed. *The Romantics.* London: Methuen, 1981 (PR457.R465)

Ruston, Sharon. *Romanticism.* London: Continuum, 2007 (PR447.R8)

Watson, J.R. *English Poetry of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830.* 2nd ed. London: Longman, 1992 (PR590.W33)

Wu, Duncan, ed. *A Companion to Romanticism.* Ed. Duncan Wu. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998 (PR457.C58)

Wu, Duncan. *Romanticism: A Critical Reader.* Oxford: Blackwell, 1995 (PR457.R645)

**Victorian Literature and Culture**

Belsey, Catherine. *Critical Practice*. London and New York: Routledge, 1980 (PN81.B395)

Brantlinger, Patrick. *A Companion to the Victorian Novel*. 2006 (ΜΝΕΣ Library: PR830.N356P37)

Brooks, Peter. *Realist Vision*. Yale UP, 2006 (PR878.R4B76)

Cook, Chris. *The Routledge Companion to Britain in the Nineteenth Century, 1815-1914*. Routledge, 2005

 (ΜΝΕΣ Library: Main Collection DA30.C8 2005)

David, Deirdre. *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel.* Cambridge UP, 2001 (PR871.C17 2001)

O’Gorman, Francis, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Victorian Culture.* Cambridge: CUP, 2010 *(*DA533.C36)

Raby, Peter. *The Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde*. Cambridge UP, 1997 (PR5824.C36)

Richards, Bernard. *English Poetry of the Victorian Period 1830-1890.* London: Longman, 1988 (PR591.R5)

Wheeler, Michael. *English Fiction of the Victorian Period, 1830-1890*. Longman, 1985 (PR871.W49 1985)

**Modernism**

Bradbury, Malcolm and James McFarlane, eds. *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890*

*-1930*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1991. (see especially chapters 1, 2 and 6) (PN56.M54M6)

Bradshaw, David. *A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture*. Blackwell, 2006.

(PR5777.W37)

Brooker, Peter, ed. *Modernism/Postmodernism*. London and New York: Longman, 1992.

(PN771.M6175)

Butler, Christopher. *Early Modernism: Literature, Music and Painting in Europe 1900-1916*.

Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994. (NX542.B88)

Hanscombe, Gillian E. and Virginia L. Smyers. *Writing for their Lives: Modernist Women 1910*

*-1940.* Northeastern University Press, 1988, c1987. (PR478.M6H36 1988)

Levenson, Michael, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*. New York: Cambridge UP, 1999.

 (PN56.M54C36)

Nicholls, Peter. *Modernisms: A Literary Guide*. London: Macmillan, 1995. (PN56.M54N53)

Stevenson, Randall. *Modernist Fiction*. New York: Prentice Hall, 1997. (PR888.M63S74)

Tratner, Michael. *Modernism and Mass Politics : Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, Yeats*. Stanford UP, c1995.

 (PR478.P64T73)

**Postwar English Literature**

Arana, R. Victoria. *Black British Writing*. London: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2004. (PR 120.B55B58)

Bentley, Nick. *British Fiction of the 1990s*. London: Routledge, 2005. (PR881.B7235)

Boxall, Peter. Twenty-First Century Fiction: A Critical Introduction. Cambridge UP, 2013 (PR 889.B69)

Brannigan, John. *Orwell to the Present: Literature in England, 1945-2000*. London: Palgrave, 2003.

 (PR471.B68)

Butler, Christopher. *Postmodernism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2002.

 (NX456.5.P66B88)

Carter, Ronald and John McRae. *The Routledge History of Literature in English: Britain and Ireland*. New

 York: Routledge, 1997. (PR83.C28)

Childs, Peter. *Contemporary Novelists: British Fiction since 1970*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

 (PR881.C53)

Connor, Steven. *The English Novel in History, 1950-1995*. London: Routledge, 1996. (PR888.H5C66)

Dodsworth, Martin, ed. *The Twentieth Century*. London: Penguin Books, 1994. (R471.T94)

Donnell, Alison. *Companion to Contemporary Black British Culture*. London and New York:

 Routledge, 2002. (Ref DA125.N4C63)

English, James F. *A Concise Companion to Contemporary British Fiction.* Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. (PR881.C658)

Hutcheon, Linda. *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*. New York: Routledge, 1988. (PN3503.H83)

Lee, Alison. *Realism and Power:* *Postmodern British Fiction*. London: Routlege, 1990. (PR888.P69L4)

McHale, Brian. *Postmodernist Fiction*. New York: Routledge, 1987. (PN3503.M24)

Procter, James. *Dwelling Places: Postwar Black British Writing*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2003.

(PR120.B55P76)

Sim, Stuart. *The Routledge Companion to Postmodernism*. London and New York: Routledge, 2005.

 (Ref B831.2.R68)

Sinfield, Alan, ed. *Society and Literature, 1945-1970*. London: Methuen, 1983. (PR471.S63)

------. *Literature, Politics and Culture in Postwar Britain*. London: Continuum, 2004. (PR478.P64S5)

Stringer, Jenny, ed. *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Literature in English*. Oxford: Oxford U P,

 1996. (RefPR471.O94)

Stevenson, Randall. *A Reader’s Guide to Twentieth-Century Novel in Britain*. Lexington: The U P of

 Kentucky, 1993. (PR881.S75)

Waugh, Patricia. *Feminine Fictions: Revisiting the Postmodern*. London: Routledge, 1989. (PR116.W38)