

The History of English Literature in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century (DAL2)

Course description - Winter 2022

Teacher: doc. PaedDr. Andrea Puskás, PhD.

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Office hours: Wednesday 13:15-14:00, Thursday 12:15-13:00

Form: a 45-minute lecture + a 90-minute seminar

Credits: 4



Tentative Syllabus:

Lectures:

1. 22 Sept – Introduction to the course, discussion of course syllabus. Modernism in English Literature.
2. 29 Sept – The Modern Novel. Principles and Methods. Virginia Woolf.
3. 6 Oct – High Modernism, Memory and Consciousness. James Joyce. Changes in Drama. The Theatre of the Absurd. Samuel Beckett.
4. 13 Oct – Postmodernism. The Construction of Reality. Intertextuality.
5. 20 Sept – The Political Novel. Graham Greene. George Orwell. Aldous Huxley.
6. 27 Sept – The Campus Novel. David Lodge. Malcolm Bradbury.
7. 3 Nov – The Experimental Novel. Angus Wilson. Bryan Stanley William Johnson. Christine Brooke-Rose. Anthony Burgess.
8. 10 Nov – Twentieth Century British Drama. The Angry Young Men. John Osborne. Edward Bond. Tom Stoppard. Caryl Churchill. Harold Pinter.
9. 17 Nov – Public holiday
10. 24 Nov – New Historicism. J. G. Ballard, Julian Barnes, John Fowles.
11. 1 Dec – Post-Colonialism. Magical realism. Salman Rushdie.
12. 8 Dec – Feminism. Iris Murdoch, Doris Lessing, Angela Carter.
13. 15 Dec – Contemporary British authors: Ian McEwan, Douglas Adams, Kazuo Ishiguro. Robert Galbraith.

Seminars:

1. 22 Sept – Modern Poetry, William Butler Yeats. Imagism, Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, W. A. Auden, Dylan Thomas
2. 29 Sept – Virginia Woolf: **Moments of Being. The New Dress.**
3. 6 Oct – James Joyce: Dubliners (**Eveline, A Painful Case**)
4. 13 Oct – Samuel Beckett: **Waiting for Godot**
5. 20 Oct – George Orwell: **1984**
6. 27 Oct – **Mid-term test.** David Lodge: **Hotel des Boobs**
7. 3 Nov – Anthony Burgess: **A Clockwork Orange**
8. 10 Nov – Harold Pinter: **The Caretaker**
9. 17 Nov – *Public holiday*
10. 24 Nov – Salman Rushdie: **The Prophet's Hair.** Julian Barnes: **The History of the World in 10½ Chapters → Chapter 1: The Stowaway**
11. 1 Dec – Kazuo Ishiguro: **A Family Supper**
12. 8 Dec – Robert Galbraith: **The Cuckoo's Calling**
13. 15 Dec – **End-of-term test.** Concluding thoughts

For the oral exam you are supposed to read the following:

1. Virginia Woolf: Moments of Being. The New Dress
2. Samuel Beckett: Waiting for Godot

3. George Orwell: 1984
4. John Fowles: The Collector
5. David Lodge: Hotel des Boobs
6. Malcolm Bradbury. The History Man
7. Anthony Burgess. A Clockwork Orange
8. John Osborne. Look Back in Anger
9. Harold Pinter. The Caretaker
10. Julian Barnes: The History of the World in 10½ Chapters → Chapter 1: The Stowaway
11. Salman Rushdie: The Prophet's Hair
12. Kazuo Ishiguro: A Family Supper
13. Robert Galbraith: The Cuckoo's Calling

Assessment based on:

- **oral exam** – the oral exam will primarily be based on your readings and lecture notes;
- **regular class attendance** – no more than 2 absences, (the first week is not counted); **attendance of lectures is obligatory**, too, similarly to the seminars, you can miss no more than 2 lectures;
- **active participation in class discussions during the lessons;**
- **a presentation** – each student has to give a presentation on a selected topic; if you fail to turn up on the day of the presentation without any prior notice, you will be given 2 absences. All students are asked to **upload the presentation in Moodle, final deadline: 18 Dec 2022**. The presentation has to be prepared in Power Point/Prezi, the minimum number of slides: 12 (it does not include the title page with your name and the title of presentation). You mustn't read your presentation, please talk to the audience. It should last for about 15-20 minutes. You can also prepare some activities, handouts, discussion questions, and quizzes for your colleagues.
- **2 tests** – a mid-term and an end-of-term test, including theory (lectures) + the reading assignments for the seminars; your result must be at least 50% on average, if you succeed and have completed all the other requirements of the course, you can take the oral exam automatically during the exam period/ If you fail to reach at least 50% on average out of the two tests, you have to retake the test (1 test from all the topics) during the exam period (you have 3 more options) and after passing the test you can take the oral exam;
- **a portfolio** – you have to prepare a portfolio including all the materials you are given in class + you have to write an **analysis of each literary work that you are obliged to read for the oral exam**;
Basic criteria: please do read the text, not just the plot summary! In your written comment on the given work you are supposed to give an **analysis**, not the description of the plot. Prepare **quotes** from the text (at least **5**) to support your ideas and interpret them. Describe the major subject matters, prove whether the literary work is modern or postmodern, and indicate what the signs of modernism or postmodernism are in that particular work. Make sure that you write down your **own opinion** and feedback to the text and not just copy someone else's from the Internet. I can only accept **hand-written texts (only quotations can be typed)**. After your commentary, you can include your notes from the seminars as well. Please make sure that you hand in your Portfolio before taking the oral exam but until 15 January 2023 the latest. This means that starting to work on your portfolio 1 week before the oral exam will not do you any good, since it is impossible to read so many books + write an analysis/commentary for each within a week. You have to work throughout the whole course.
 You will get back the Portfolio, but the analysis of each literary work must be scanned in one document and **uploaded in Moodle. Final deadline: 15 January 2023**.
- **reading in English** – the secret of the course is reading the above literary works and talk about them in English, therefore, you will only be able to pass the exam if you look like this during the **entire** semester (not just the exam period):



Recommended literature:

- ☞ BRANNIGAN, John. 2003. *Orwell to the Present: Literature in England, 1945-2000*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- ☞ BULSON, Eric. 2006. *The Cambridge Introduction to James Joyce*. CUP.
- ☞ BURGESS, Anthony. 2001. *English Literature*. Longman.
- ☞ CASERIO, Robert L., ed. 2009. *The Cambridge Companion to the Twentieth-Century English Novel*. CUP.
- ☞ LEWIS, Pericles. 2007. *The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism*. CUP.
- ☞ NICOL, Bran. 2009. *The Cambridge Introduction to Postmodern Fiction*. CUP.
- ☞ PILLING, John, ed. 1994. *The Cambridge Companion to Samuel Beckett*. CUP.
- ☞ STEVENSON, Randall. 2004. *The Oxford English Literary History. Volume 12. 1960-2000. The Last of England?* OUP.
- ☞ THORNLEY, G. C. – ROBERTS, Gwyneth. 2003. *An Outline of English Literature*. Longman.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Enjoy the course and enjoy reading!