

University of Jordan English Department  
Course Title: Twentieth-Century English Literature  
Course Code: 1502431 Prerequisite: Nineteenth-Century English Literature 333

### **Course Objectives:**

The main objective of this course is to introduce English majors to 20<sup>th</sup> –century English literature through a comprehensive study of a variety of selected literary texts by the major writers of the period. In addition to enhancing the students' literary knowledge, the course aims at improving their language competence and widening their intellectual horizons.

### **Learning outcomes:**

Knowledge and Understanding:

Students should

- a. know the literary history of the period
- b. know the major authors and their representative works
- c. understand how to appreciate literary works
- d. be able to understand and discuss major critical concepts and literary movements

### **B. Intellectual/Cognitive/Analytical Skills**

Students should

- a. be able to use appropriate critical and analytical skills when dealing with works of literature
- b. be able to identify the various literary devices ,symbolic and metaphorical language used in literary texts
- c. read texts critically, developing the ability to link various writers and literary movements together with a view to recognizing a sense of continuity and development.

### **C. Subject Specific Skills:**

Students should

- a. use appropriate analytical and critical skills when reading works of literature
- b. understand the style, the content and the general significance of literary texts.

### **Transferable Skills:**

Students should

- a. display critical and analytical skills in their encounter with various literary genres
- b. read and appreciate better
- c. develop better cross-cultural communications skills

### **Teaching Meethods:**

- a. lectures: 3 hours per week
- b. b.assignments: students are required to prepare in advance of the lectures
- c. c. reports students are required to prepare written papers or reports about relevant works of their choice
- d. presentations; students are expected to do oral presentations of their written chapters

## Tests and Evaluation:

Mid-term Exam: 30%; participation: 10%; presentation: 10%; Final Exam: 50%.

## Textbook:

Abrams, A. H. and others. *Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Vol. 2. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. New York and London: Norton, 2000.

## Course Schedule:

Week 1 & 2: Introduction and Orientation; Preface 1897-1915

Week 3: Thomas Hardy: 1916-1917; "The Convergence of the Twain": 1945-1946; "Ah are You Digging on my Grave?": 1946-1947.

Week 4: A. E. Housman: 2041; "Loveliest of Trees": 2042; "To an Athlete Dying Young": 2042-2043.

Week 5: Voices from World War I: 2048-2049; Rupert Brooke: 2049-2050; "The Soldier": 2050-; Siegfried Sassoon: 2054-2055; "They": 2055; "The General": 2056; Wilfred Owen: 2066; "Anthem for Doomed Youth": 2066-2067.

Week 6: W. B. Yeats 2085-2088; "The Lake Isle of Innisfree": 2092-2093; "Prayer for My Daughter": 2107-2108; Virginia Woolf: 2141-2143; "Modern Fiction": 2148-2153. E. M. Forster: 2131-2133

Week 7: James Joyce: 2231-2235; "Araby": 2236-2240

Week 8: D. H. Lawrence: 2313-2316; "Odour of Chrysanthemums": 2316-2330; "Snake": 2352-2354.

### Midterm Exam: 30%. 31/3

Weeks 9 & 10 & 11: T. S. Eliot: 2360-2363; "The Waste Land" 2368-2375; "Tradition and the Individual Talent": 2395-2401; Jean Rhys: 2437-2438; "On Shooting Sitting Birds": 2442-2444

Week 12. Samuel Beckett: 2471-2472; "Endgame": 2472-2500.

Week 14 W. H. Auden: 2500-2501; "Musee des Beaux Arts": 2505; Dylan Thomas: 2516-2517; "Do Not Go Gentle...": 2524; "The Force ...": 2517-2518.

Voices from World War II: 2525-2526.

Doris Lessing: 2541-2542; "To Room Nineteen": 2542-2564.

Week 15: Philip Larkin: 2564-2565; "Church Going": 2565-2566; Seamus Heaney: 2818-2819; "Digging": 2819-2820.

### Final Exam: 50 %

## References

Blamires, Harry, ed. *A Guide to Twentieth-Century Literature in English*. London: Methuen, 1983.

Esslin, Martin. *The Theatre of the Absurd*. London: Penguin, 1962.

McDonnell, Helen and others, eds. *England in Literature*. Glenview: Scott, Foresman. Latest edition

Robson, W. W. *Modern English Literature*. London: Oxford University, 1970

Sisson, C. H. *English Poetry 1900-1950: An Assessment*. London: Hart Davis 1971.

Schmidt, Michael. *Eleven British Poets*. London: Methuen, 1980.

Stewart, J. I. M. *Eight Modern Writers*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963.