

Ph.D. Programme in English Literature  
Department of English Language and Literature  
Faculty of Foreign Languages  
University of Jordan

Course number: 2201944

Course title: Nineteenth-Century English Literature

Course Description:

This is an in-depth study of the English Romantic, Victorian, and the fin-de-siècle literature. Readings will include canonical texts in the various genres of the century, beginning with poets like Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Tennyson, Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Christina Rossetti, Gerald Manley Hopkins, the fiction of Austen, Scott, the Brontës, Dickens, Eliot, Wilde and Hardy, together with the prose writings of Charles Lamb, Thomas De Quincey, Arnold, Carlyle, Mill, Walter Pater, and others. The seminar undertakes the various “reconsiderations” of British Romanticism, its boundaries, and how it is currently being redefined.

Learning outcomes: Students are expected to

- identify major writers, movements and trends,
- be able to connect work with its historical, cultural and intellectual context,
- construct a narrative of a prominent concept in the time,
- deduct conclusions about the cognate or contradictory literary views of the nineteenth century, and
- write a scholarly research paper on a relevant topic.

Methods: The teaching and learning will be conducted through

- discussion, analysis and feedback;
- students’ presentations on assigned subjects and their written papers;
- students’ application of contemporary theoretical frameworks and principles to certain works of the time; and
- Videos, guest speakers (including involved students).

Course content:

Week 1: Introduction and orientation.

Week 2: William Wordsworth, *Lyrical Ballads*;

John Stuart Mill, “Thoughts on Poetry and Its Varieties”

Week 3: William Wordsworth, “The Tables Turned”, “Expostulation and Reply”

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, from *Biographia Literaria*

Robert Browning, “Essay on Shelley”

Week 4: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Kubla Khan”

Shelley, “Ode to the Wild West Wind”

Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale”

Hazlitt, “On Poetry in General”, “On Familiar Style”

Week 5. Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*;

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

- Week 6. Walter Scott, *The Talisman*;  
Thomas Carlyle, "Sartor Resartus or Past and Present"
- Week 7. Charlotte Bronte, *Villette*;  
Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market", "Song ['When I am dead, my dearest]";  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Aurora Leigh"
- Week 8. Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess", "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at St. Praxed's Church";  
Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*
- Week 9. Gerard Manley Hopkins, "The Windhover", "God's Grandeur", "Pied Beauty",  
"Spring and Fall";  
Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*
- Week 10. George Eliot, *Middlemarch*
- Week 11. John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty";  
John Ruskin, "Of Queens' Gardens", "Of King's Treasuries";  
William Morris, "News from Nowhere";  
Walter Pater, "The Renaissance"
- Week 12. Matthew Arnold, "Culture and Anarchy";  
Alfred Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott", "Tithonus", "The Lotus-Eaters",  
"Ulysses", *Maud: A Monodrama*
- Week 13. Oscar Wilde, "The Decay of Lying", "The Critic as Artist", "The Truth of Masks";  
Algernon Charles Swinburne, "Faustine"
- Week 14. Sci-Fi, fantasy and the detective novel:  
H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*;  
Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*;  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*;  
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*;  
Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*
- Week 15. The fin de siècle novel: Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*;  
John Galsworthy, *The Apple Tree*
- Week 16. Final Examination

Course evaluation:

Presentations and participation: 10% of the grade;

Term papers: 20%;

Mid-term test: 30%

Final exam: 40%

The term paper: Each student writes a term paper of approximately 3000 words on a topic approved by the instructor. Deadline for submitting the hard copy is the class

of week 14. A soft copy should be submitted the same day.

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