

University of Jordan
Faculty of Foreign Languages
Department of English

Course Title: Modern World Literature

Course Number: 2201352

Course Description:

The Literature of the twentieth century manifests shared characteristics. It was highly experimental and iconoclastic, for it broke away from the conventions that governed literature in previous century. Modern writers had a lot in common in terms of their styles and themes, largely because they were affected by the same global circumstances, such as the First World War, in addition to social upheavals pertaining to the resistance of colonialism and political oppression. Accordingly, modernism was a global movement and writers shared an interest in reflecting the socio-political issues of their times in an oblique style that mystified those concerns. At the same time, modern literature was also highly influenced by the new discoveries in psychology, anthropology, physics, avant-garde plastic arts, and philosophy. Accordingly, the course is designed to familiarize the students attending the course with the main trends in modern world literature through representative selection of poems, short stories, novels, and plays by leading writers of modern world literature. To achieve its objectives, students are encouraged to come prepared for the discussion of the relevant text.

Ultimately, the course aims at enabling the students, by the time they finish the course, to understand what modernism was about together with widening their knowledge, the course hopes, will consolidate their knowledge of their specialization as students in the department of English.

Course Policies:

1. You are expected to attend class on time. Students who come late will **not** be allowed to enter.
2. You are allowed up to 5 absences. If you exceed this number, you will fail the class.
3. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

4. Participation is an essential part of course works. It does not merely mean coming to class; it involves preparing beforehand and participating in class discussions.

5. Students are expected to give a presentation on one of the texts selected for the course. The presentation has to be well-prepared and organized. The student presenting is not to give a summary of events or a summary of the poem; the presentation is to discuss themes, movements, etc. The other students are also expected to take part in the discussion.

Evaluation:

Mid-term examination	30%
Presentation	10%
Participation	10%
Final examination	50%

Course Plan:

Assigned Material
Orientation & Introduction
Albert Camus, <i>The Stranger</i>
Albert Camus, "The Guest"
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings"
Frank O'Connor, "Guest of The Nation"
Frank O'Connor, "My Oedipus Complex"
Naguib Mahfouz, "Half a Day"
Chinua Achebe, "Marriage Is A Private Affair"
Leila Aboulela, "The Ostrich"
Leo Tolstoy, "Three Questions"
<i>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</i>
Pablo Neruda, "The Word"
Rabindranath Tagore, "A Moment's Indulgence"
Mahmoud Darwish, "I Come From There"
Mahmoud darwish, <i>from</i> "Psalms"
Gibran Khalil Gibran, "A Hymn of Man"

Nizar Qabbani, "Jerusalem"
Maya Angelo, "Still I Rise"
Maya Angelo, "Phenomenal Woman"
Salah Jaheen, from <i>Roba'eyat</i>
Luigi Pirandello, <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>