

HUMA 1300

Introduction to Western Literature

Fall 2017

Time: Monday and Wednesday: 10:30 – 11:50 a.m.

Venue: LTG

Instructor: Lisa L. M. Wong
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. (By appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Zhu Xiuwen (Email: xzhuag@connect.ust.hk)

Office hours: Wednesday: 1:30-2:30 p.m. (By appointment)

Course Description

This course will introduce students to methods of reading western literary texts in English. Its focus is on short stories, poems, and plays. Students will learn to analyze the artistic and imaginative use of language, and develop the ability to think creatively and critically. Texts chosen will be those exploring aspects of initiation, romance and family, social and cultural issues in race, gender, and identity. Since literature is a window on culture and humanity, the course aims to deepen students' understanding of people from different cultures and the complexity of life.

Intended learning outcomes:

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. identify the characteristics of a specific literary genre;
2. analyze the themes in a literary work;
3. appreciate how an author's artistic treatment helps convey ideas and feelings in a text; and
4. do a short piece of creative writing by applying the literary devices they have learnt in class.

Syllabus and Schedule

Week 1 (4 and 6 Sept.)

Introduction

Fiction reading: Plot and Initiation Story

Ernst Hemingway, "The Killers"

Week 2 (11 and 13 Sept.)

Setting and Characterization

Katherine Mansfield, "Her First Ball"

Week 3 (18 and 20 Sept.)

Irony: Guy de Maupassant, "The Jewelry"

Symbol: Ann Beattie, "Janus"

Week 4 (25 and 27 Sept.)

Theme and Cultural Contexts

Margaret Laurence, "The Rain Child"

Weeks 5-6 (4 and 9 Oct.)

Poetry reading: Simile, Metaphor, and Musicality

William Shakespeare, [Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?]

Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"

Week 6

11 October (Wednesday) **Mid-term Exam

Week 7 (16 and 18 Oct.)

Speaker's Tones, Situation, and Setting

William Wordsworth, [She dwelt among the untrodden ways]

Walter de la Mare [Slim cunning hands at rest]

Seamus Heaney, "Mid-term Break"

Week 8 (23 and 25 Oct.)

Social and Historical Contexts

Kelly Cherry, "Alzheimer's"

Sarah Cleghorn, [The golf links lie so near the mill]

Agha Shahid Ali, "The Dacca Gauzes"

Agha Shahid Ali, "Postcard from Kashmir"

Week 9 (30 Oct. and 1 Nov.)

Structure and Form

e.e. cummings, [L(a)] and other concrete poems

David Ferry, "Evening News I"

Modernist Poetics

Archibald MacLeish, "Ars Poetica"

Weeks 10-11 (6 -15 Nov.)

Drama reading: Greek Culture and Tragedy
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (with film clips)

13 November (Monday) **Creative writing due

Weeks 12-13 (20, 22 and 27 Nov.)

Stage Directions and Non-verbal Language
Susan Glaspel, *Trifles*

Week 13 (29 Nov.)

Review

Assessment

Class Participation	10%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Creative writing	20%
Final Examination	40%

Required Text

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*. Trans. Bernard Knox. New York: Pocket Books, 2005.
(Available at the University Bookstore)

Reference on Reserve

Katherine Mansfield. *The Garden Party and Other Stories*. New York: Knopf, 1991.

Ernest Hemingway. *The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway*. New York: Macmillan, 1987.

Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle. *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism, and Theory: Key Critical Concepts*. London: Prentice Hall, 1995.

Sylvan Barnet, et al, eds. *An Introduction to Literature: Fiction, Poetry, Drama*. New York: Longman, 1997.

Aristotle. *Aristotle's Poetics: A Translation and Commentary for Students of Literature*. Trans. Leon Golden; Commentary. O. B. Hardison. Tallahassee: University Presses of Florida, 1981.

Berhard Zimmermann. *Greek Tragedy: An Introduction*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.