



**English Narrative (4896)
FAN**

Academic year: 2009-2010

Subject type: Core

Length: 2nd semester

Credits (theory and practice): 6 (4'5 theory / 1'5 practice)

Sub-group divisions: None

Subject's pre-requisites: None

Participation in Campus Extens: Yes

Curricular language: English

Tutor: Dra. Eva M. Pérez Rodríguez	
Office: 210 Building: Ramón Llull Tel.: 971 259537 (ext 9537) Fax: 971 173473 e-mail: eva.perez@uib.es	TUTORIALS 1st semester : Mon 9-11 and Wed 9-12 2nd semester: Mon 9-12 and Wed 9-11

1. INTRODUCTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The *English Narrative* subject has a twofold aim. On the one hand, it intends to consolidate the contents learned and practised in the two preceding years, with the English Literature subjects I and II. On the other hand, it pursues a deeper understanding and analysis of the narrative form in English literature, leaving aside dramatic, poetic and other types of creations.

For this reason, it is highly advisable that students should revise their notes and read the bibliography corresponding to a given period or author before they are covered in the English Narrative class. Historical and cultural contextualisation is also essential, and for this reason the contents studied in the corresponding subject should also be revised.



1. GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The contents for this subject, taught only over a half-year, must go over the time line covered by the previous subjects, and concentrate on a selected group of representative authors and movements, avoiding both repetitions and glaring omissions.

This shall be achieved by mixing the theoretical and practical approaches, and by looking at an assorted cluster of texts, covering as many different subgenres as the narrative form permits. Thus, the reading of novels, albeit the most representative of the narrative form, shall be limited to a small number of authors, to concentrate also on fragments or shorter pieces, such as tales, short stories, isolated sample chapters, essays, etc.

At the end of this subject, students will have learned to do the following:

- know details and understand the relationships between different works, authors and periods going beyond the mere chronological boundaries into differences of style, theme or narrative conventions
- appreciate the narrative, aesthetic, historical and cultural elements of a novel
- read novels critically and produce written pieces where the student's reasoned opinions are expressed in an academic register and using terminology common in the field of study
- make use of printed and virtual sources with the purpose of studying, researching or writing an essay or commentary, including a reference system, a bibliography and in general the conventions of an academic piece of writing

2. STRUCTURE OF SUBJECT CONTENTS

I. THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

1. Introduction to the period
2. Augustan fiction: Jonathan Swift and Daniel Defoe
3. Authors of the first English 'novels': Fielding, Richardson and Sterne
4. The Gothic novel: Horace Walpole and Mrs. Ann Radcliffe
5. Novels of ideas: William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft

II. THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

1. Introduction to the period
2. Novels of the Romantic period: Jane Austen and Mary Shelley
3. The Victorian novel I: Charles Dickens
4. The Victorian novel II: the Brontës and George Eliot



5. A period of transition: Thomas Hardy and Henry James.

III. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

1. Introduction to the period
2. Colonialism and Edwardian literature: Joseph Conrad and E. M. Forster
3. Modernism and its alternatives: James Joyce and Virginia Woolf
4. Reflections on dystopia: William Golding and George Orwell
5. University novels: Kingsley Amis and David Lodge
6. Contemporary novelists: Iain McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro and Julian Barnes

3. METHODOLOGY

While the theory sessions are to focus on the contextualisation of authors in their historical, social and biographical situations, the practice time is to be devoted to the perusal of texts, in a variety of manners:

- close reading
- debate
- linking of theoretical notions with textual evidence
- essay writing

Some of these activities will be carried out in the classroom, but there will also be some written activities by students, whose guidelines are provided below.

4. ASSESSMENT

Students have a choice of two types of assessment. Their decision will have to be communicated by signing the form provided, by 25th February 2010. Where no signature is given, the default choice will be no. 2 (see below).

1. MIXED ASSESSMENT (continuous assessment plus final exam):

- a student's active participation in class will contribute up to **10%** towards their final mark.
- a student's critical and reasoned participation in the Campus Extens forums will contribute up to **10%** towards their final mark. Students will need to take part in at least 3 of the discussion forums proposed by the teacher. Failure to do so will entail a 0 [zero] in this section.



- a student's production of textual commentaries, and the marks obtained in them, will contribute up to **20%** towards their final mark. All set commentaries will have to be handed in on the day stipulated. Failure to do so will entail a 0 [zero] in this section. Faulty expression in English will be penalised (see Appendix).
- those students who choose to be assessed in this manner will have to take the **final exam**, but its mark will count for **60%** of the total.
- It is necessary to pass the exam (with a 5) for the remaining 40% to be added to the mark.

2. ASSESSMENT THROUGH FINAL EXAM ONLY: 100% of the mark.

Those students who adopt this scheme are nevertheless encouraged to do the rest of the subject's activities, in particular handing in the commentaries, since it is all invaluable practice for the final exam. In their case, any marks obtained will be for their guidance.

3. DESCRIPTION OF FINAL EXAM

The final exam will comprise the following parts:

- the identification and contextualisation of several short texts (20%)
- an essay-like question (40%)
- FOR "FINAL EXAM ONLY" ASSESSMENT: the textual commentary of a longer text, of the type done in class and as homework (40%)

The **minimum mark** required for a **part** to be computed is **4**. In those cases where the exam's mathematical average is higher than 5 but one or more parts of the exam have been failed, the student will have 4.5 in his or her marks record.

It will be **necessary for ALL students to take the exam**. Continuous Assessment students will not need to answer the Commentary question.

5. ADVICE TO THE STUDENTS

- Time is short and reading novels is time-consuming. Please make sure you have read the novels and fragments before we start discussing them in class. Approximate discussion dates will be announced.
- the use of mobile phones in class is strictly forbidden.
- please take good notice of any deadlines for submission of work. No excuses will be accepted or deadlines extended. Each of the forums will have a participation deadline, after which no more posts will be admitted.
- in the discussion forums and the written commentaries, plagiarism and the uncritical use of internet sources will be penalised with a 0 [zero].



- all students will take official exams on the date stipulated by the Faculty. The teacher will not set an exam on an alternative date unless for a major reason.
- if students are not present on the day corrected homework is returned, it is their responsibility to go to the teacher's office during tutorials to reclaim it.
- make use of tutorials. The teacher is there to advise and listen to you, mark any extra work you may want to submit, and solve your academic doubts.
- regularly check the subject's Campus Extens page as new materials, messages, homework, etc. may be made available there.

6. BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Textbook

1.1. Peck, John, and Martin Coyle 2002: *A Brief History of English Literature*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 0333791770 (any equivalent History of English Literature is also valid)

2. Compulsory readings (novels)

2.1. Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* (1860). Ed. Charlotte Mitchell. Penguin. ISBN 0141439564

2.2. Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* (1921). Ed. David Bradshaw. Oxford World's Classics. ISBN 0192839705

2.3. Julian Barnes's *A History of the World in 10½ Chapters* (2005 [1989]). Picador. ISBN 0330313991

3. Selection of fragments, available at the Ramon Llull copy shop

7. SECONDARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

• Literature

- Alexander, Michael 2000: *A History of English Literature*. Macmillan. ISBN 0333672267
- Carter, Ronald 2001: *The Routledge History of Literature in English: Britain and Ireland*. London: Routledge. ISBN 0415243181
- Carter, Ronald, and John McRae 2001: *The Penguin Guide to Literature in English. Britain and Ireland*. Penguin. ISBN 0582465672
- Drabble, Margaret ed. 2000: *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*. Oxford UP. ISBN 0198662211
- Eagleton, Terry 2005: *The English Novel. An Introduction*. Blackwell. ISBN 1405117079



- Hewitt, Douglas 1988: *English Fiction of the Early Modern Period 1890 – 1940*. Longman. ISBN 058249284X
- Kelly, Gary 1989: *English Fiction of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830*. London: Longman. ISBN 0582492602
- Lane, Richard J. et al eds. 2003: *Contemporary British Fiction*. Polity. ISBN 0745628672
- Lewis, Pericles 2007: *The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521535271.
- Probyn, Clive T. 1987: *English Fiction of the Eighteenth Century 1700-1789*. London: Longman. ISBN 0582493692
- Rogers, Pat ed. 1987: *The Oxford Illustrated History of English Literature*. Oxford UP. ISBN 0192827286
- Sanders, Andrew 2000: *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*. Oxford UP. ISBN 0198186975
- Thornley, G. C., and Roberts, Gwyneth 1985: *An Outline of English Literature*. Longman. ISBN 0582749174.

- **History**

- McDowall, David 1989: *An Illustrated History of Britain* (Longman Background Books). Longman. ISBN 058274914X
- Morgan, Kenneth O. 2000: *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain*. Oxford UP. ISBN 0192893262

- **Web addresses:**

- <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/18th/>
- <http://www.qub.ac.uk/english/shuttle/rom-chrono/chrono.htm>
- <http://newark.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/20th.html>
- <http://www.infoplease.com>
- <http://www.victorianweb.org/>
- <http://www.literarydictionary.com>
- <http://www.online-literature.com>
- <http://www.wwnorton.com/nael>



Appendix

Linguistic Correction in English Narrative (4896)

In written commentaries and English Narrative exams, the presence of basic mistakes such as the following will result in the subtraction of 1 point (each). The following is merely a selection of **mistakes**:

- wrong use of adjectives or adverbs: The others cars; a wrongly decision.
- double subjects: It is interesting the ending.
- absence of subject: They bought it when saw it.
- direct mistranslations: This car likes me; a new on TV; arrive to London
- lack of concord: This houses. People is kind. He go.
- incorrect verb conjugation: She musts stay. He would had come. He would have began. We didn't went.
- basic misspelling/lack of capitalisation: spanish, appartment
- erratic use of paragraphs and punctuation