



English Narrative (4896)

Extinguished FAN Subject

Academic year: 2011-2012

Subject type: Core

Length: 1 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

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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.

1. GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The contents for this subject concentrate on a selected group of representative authors and movements, avoiding both repetitions and glaring omissions.

This is 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.



The skills provided by this subject are the following:

- learning details and understanding the relationships between different works, authors and periods going beyond the mere chronological boundaries into differences of style, theme or narrative conventions
- appreciating the narrative, aesthetic, historical and cultural elements of a novel
- reading novels critically and producing written pieces where the student's reasoned opinions are expressed in an academic register and using terminology common in the field of study
- making 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

- contextualisation of authors in their historical, social and biographical situations
- close reading
- linking of theoretical notions with textual evidence
- essay writing

4. ASSESSMENT

Final exam only. The final exam will comprise the following parts:

- the identification and contextualisation of several short texts (20%)
- an essay-like question (40%)
- the textual commentary of a longer text (40%)

All parts must be passed with a minimum mark of 5. When the overall exam mark is higher than 5 but one or more parts have been failed, the exam will be failed and this will be reflected in the student's grades record with a 4'5.

5. ADVICE TO THE STUDENTS

- Time is short and reading novels is time-consuming. Please make sure you have read the novels and fragments thoroughly.
- regularly check the subject's Campus Extens page as new materials, notes, messages, homework, etc. may be made available there.
- **Plagiarism:** Article 32 in the Reglament Acadèmic will be applied in cases of cheating, plagiarism, cyberplagiarism, or any other fraudulent practice in the process of assessment:

"Amb independència del procediment disciplinari que es pugui seguir contra l'estudiant infractor, la realització demostradorament fraudulenta d'alguna de les activitats d'avaluació incloses en l'avaluació d'alguna assignatura comportarà, segon les circumstàncies, una menysvaloració en la seva qualificació que, en els casos més greus, pot arribar a la qualificació de «suspens» (0,0) a la convocatòria anual. En particular, es considera un frau la inclusió en un treball de fragments d'obres alienes presentats de tal manera que es facin passar com a propis de l'estudiant."

- **Failure to submit an assessment task or to attend a test:** If a student fails to hand in an assignment or to show up on the day and at the time established by the



lecturer for the exams or practical sessions, the grade for that assignment, exam or practical session will be 0 (zero).

- **The dates and times of the official exams** will not be altered under any circumstances, except those contemplated by the Reglament Acadèmic (when two exams coincide on the same day with a time difference of under three hours between them). Students will not be allowed into the classroom when the exam/practical session has already started.

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>