

Tel Aviv University
Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
Department of English and American Studies

מבוא לתרבות אנגליה

Basic Course

Course description and schedule of readings

Monday-Thursday 10:00-12:00

Semester II – 2019

Gilman 282

Lecturer:

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Office hour: by appointment, Webb 503

Teaching assistant:

Ms. Shahdan Anabousi –

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Office hour: TBA

Students are encouraged to come and talk to us outside of class hours. In the event that there is an urgent concern, feel free to contact us to schedule a meeting.

Attendance is compulsory for this course, as per University regulations. Failure to attend regularly will result in the lowering of the class grade or in disqualification from taking the exams. We do understand, of course, that unexpected things happen, and we will do anything that we can to help you in case of a problem. Our only condition is that you contact us *ahead of time*, so that together we can find a solution.

Exam dates:**Midterm:****Moed A: Friday, May 10, 9:00-12:00****Moed B: Friday, June 7, 9:00-12:00****Final:****Moed A: Wednesday, June 26, 9:00-12:00****Moed B: Thursday, August 1, 9:00-12:00****Assessment:****33% - midterm exam****66% - final exam****Course Description**

This course presents a survey of English literature and culture from the beginning of the eighteenth century until early twentieth-century modernism. The aim of the course is to familiarize the student with key works in English literature, and to engage with their historical and cultural contexts; indeed all great works of literature respond to the time in which they were written. At the same time, these texts also transcend – move beyond – the particular time in which they were written. We will thus also examine universal themes that appear within them; how they speak to us also in our present time.

We will read texts by Swift, Pope, Dr. Johnson, Burns, Blake, Charlotte Smith, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Austen, Browning, Tennyson, Rossetti, Gaskell, Yeats, Conrad, Wilde, T.S. Elliot, Joyce and Woolf. Thus we will examine literary periods such as Romanticism, the Victorian period and Modernism, the literary and cultural production that defined them, and the historical developments that shaped and informed them. As such, we will reflect upon the interrelations between text, context and history as they appear in the canonical texts of British literature. In doing so, the students will gain an awareness of different genres in prose and poetry, learn about different poetic forms and structures and develop their analytical skills in reading and literary analysis; in written and oral expression.

The lessons will be based on assigned texts that will be read before class. The lessons will be in a lecture format, but class discussion and questions are encouraged. All texts will be available to download from the course website or through links to outside sources. The students may, of course, purchase used copies of the Norton Anthology of English Literature, 7th volume, “The Major Authors”, from which most of the

works are taken, or borrow or download from the library copies of individual texts. Associated material for enrichment appears on the course website on moodle. You are encouraged to explore this material.

Schedule of Readings – Introduction to British Literature II

- February 28: Intro + Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, Book IV, "A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms", Chapters 1-4.
- March 4: *Gulliver's Travels*, Book IV, Chapters 5-12 (conclude)
- March 7: Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, Cantos 1-2
- March 11: *The Rape of the Lock*, Cantos 3-5 (conclude)
- March 14: Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas*, Chapters 1-25
- March 18: *Rasselas* (conclude)

March 21: Purim holiday – no class

- March 25: Robert Burns, "A Man's a Man For a That"; "To a Mouse"; "Tam O'Shanter"
- March 28: William Blake, From *Songs of Innocence and Experience* ("Introduction to "Innocence"; "The Lamb"; "The Little Black Boy"; "The Chimney Sweeper"; Introduction to "Experience"; "The Chimney Sweeper"; "The Tyger"; "London")
- April 1: Charlotte Smith, *The Emigrants*
- April 4: William Wordsworth, "We Are Seven", "Anecdote for Fathers", "Tintern Abbey", "The World is Too Much With Us"
- April 8: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"
- April 11: George Gordon, Lord Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, from Canto 3, (Stanzas 1-28)
- April 15: Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ozymandias", "England in 1819", "Ode to the West Wind"; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, selection from *Frankenstein* (chapters 5-8)

[Passover / Spring break]

- April 29: John Keats, "The Eve of St. Agnes", "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
- May 2: Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Chapters 1-12)
- May 6: Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess", "Porphyria's Lover"
- May 6: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses", "The Lady of Shalott"

May 9: Independence Day – no class

May 10: Midterm, Moed A

- May 13: Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (Chapters 1-8)
- May 16: Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market*
- May 20: Oscar Wilde, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol"
- May 23: William Butler Yeats, "Easter 1916", "When You are Old", "Sailing to Byzantium"
- May 27: Joseph Conrad, "Heart of Darkness"
- May 30: "Heart of Darkness" (conclude)
- June 3: T.S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
- June 6: James Joyce, "Araby"

June 7: Midterm, Moed B

- June 10: Virginia Woolf, from *A Room of One's Own*
- June 13: Review