

Introduction to Literature (lectures and seminars), Autumn semester 2013

Course coordinator: Dr. Martina Horáková, mhorakov@phil.muni.cz, office 3009

Tutors: Jan Beneš (B), Martina Bilá (E), Dita Hochmanová (F), Eva Hrkalová (D), Filip Krajník (C), Marcela Sekanina Vavřinová (A)

Course description:

This course consists of alternating lectures and seminars that encourage students to engage in literary research and analysis. The lectures provide students with an introduction to literary histories, movements, contexts and approaches to literary texts. The seminars function as more practical insights into analyzing literary texts and writing critical research papers about them. They are based on discussions and group work.

Course objectives:

1. To learn the methods of conducting library research and working with primary and secondary sources.
2. To acquire the techniques needed for literary analysis and writing academic essays.
3. To refine critical thinking about literature and achieve a deeper understanding of how literature affects us and how it enriches our perception of the world.

Assessment:

Students must prepare for all classes, especially for the seminars. The assigned texts must be read before the class so that students can engage actively in discussions and other continuous assessment. Written assignments must be submitted in the correct format and on time. 1 credit (zápočet) is given at the end of the lecture series, 2 credits for the exam at the end of the seminar series. Final mark: class performance 30%; Ass 1 30%; Ass 2 40%. Points out of 100; 60% pass/fail line. Evaluation scale: A 100-85; B 84-80; C-79-75; D-74-70; E 69-60; F (fail) 59-0.

Readings:

Primary: please see the syllabus—texts will be available in the ELF (poetry, short extract), otherwise you have to get a copy from the library or a bookshop.

Secondary: Barnet, Sylvan, et al. *A Short Guide to Writing About Literature*. 2nd ed. Toronto: Pearson Education, 2004. (ELF)

MLA Handbook, 7th edition. (ELF)

Attendance: While attending the lectures is strongly recommended but not compulsory, the attendance of ALL seminars during the semester is compulsory. The only exception is illness, in which case students must present the study department with a doctor's certificate. Failing to attend the seminars may result in failing the course.

Lecture Mondays: 23.9., 7.10., 21.10., 4.11., 18.11., 2.12.	Lecturer	text(s) to be analyzed in the seminars	seminar Mondays: 30.9., 14.10, 11.11, 21.11, 9.12 Weds: 2.10, 16.10, 13.11, 27.11, 11.12	assignments
1. Introduction to the Study of Literature	Doc. Michael M. Kaylor		reading literature and writing about literature; primary and secondary sources; working with library sources (catalogue, databases); evaluating sources	Barnet: Chapter 1 ("The Writer as Reader") and 2 ("The Reader as Writer"); getting to know MLA (basic format of a paper: header, title, layout, ...)
2. Elizabethan Drama	Dr. Filip Krajník	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i>	text analysis; critical vocabulary (character(s), plot); using the literary present	Barnet: Chapter 11 ("Writing about Drama"); Maynard Mack, "The World of Hamlet" (1952); MLA (section 3.6. Titles)
3. Romantic Poetry	Doc. Michael M. Kaylor	John Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer", "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles for the First Time", "Ode to Psyche", "To Autumn"	READING WEEK (Oct 28 and 30): no class text analysis; critical vocabulary (figures of speech, rhythm and rhyme)	Barnet: Chapter 12 ("Writing about Poetry"); MLA (section 3.7. Quotations); Assignment 1: a short (2 double-spaced pages) written analysis of one of Keats' poems, submit in ELF, deadline Nov 1
4. Gothic Novel	Dr. Bonita Rhoads	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>	text analysis; critical vocabulary (points of view); quoting X paraphrasing, avoiding plagiarism; feedback to Assignment 1	Barnet: Chapter 10 ("Writing about Fiction")
5. Victorian Novel	Dr. Stephen Hardy	(all first chapters only) Charles Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i> ; William Makepeace Thackeray, <i>Vanity Fair</i> ; George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> ; Jane Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	text analysis; critical vocabulary (setting); developing an argument	Barnet: Chapter 8 ("Writing about Literature")
6. American Renaissance	Dr. Jeffrey A. Smith	selections from: Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Edgar Allan Poe, Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson	text analysis; critical vocabulary (overview of narrative categories, historical context); close reading	MLA (sections 5.4, 5.5, 5.6-5.6.5, 5.7-5.7.5., all Documentation of Work Cited) Assignment 2: a 3-4 page analysis of a short story, extract or a chapter included in lecture 5 or 6; integrate quotation(s) from at least two secondary sources as well as their bibliographical details; MLA format; submit in ELF, deadline Jan 3, 2014