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LIT 246L.02: Genres, Themes, Approaches - Love and Death in 19th Century British Poetry and Fiction

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Fall 2021

LIT246L, Genres, Themes, Approaches: Love and Death in 19th Century
British Poetry and Fiction

Dr. Vanita

Tuesday, Thursday, 9.30-10.50 a.m.

Room: LA336

CRN 75910 3 credits

This class fulfills the General Education Intermediate Writing requirement and the Literature requirement. This course introduces you to a few major British poems and works of prose fiction composed in the nineteenth century. We focus on the themes of Love and Death. This is also a writing course.

Dr. Vanita's office: LA 146-A.

Mailbox: in LA129

Office Hours: Tuesday 12.30-1.30, Thursday 8.30-9.30, and by appointment

Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

Texts (all required)

To be purchased:

George Eliot, *Silas Marner* (Penguin 2003, ISBN 9780141439754)

Available at the UM bookstore. You can also order it from Amazon.

Please use only this edition so that we are all on the same page.

On Moodle:

Poetry and short stories

Background notes, study guides, guidelines on academic writing

Updated syllabus (changes, if any, will also be announced in class and on email)

Please read these texts on Moodle, because I have added explanatory footnotes where required

Learning Outcomes for Intro to Lit courses

- Acquire knowledge of a major literary genre or a major theme in literature. In this section of the class, the major themes we examine are Love and Death, and the genres we examine are poetry and fiction in nineteenth-century England

- **Acquire knowledge of a series of canonical or influential literary works that are representative of the particular genre, or that explore in depth the particular theme, addressed in the course.** In this section of the class, we understand how the theme Love and Death develops in nineteenth-century England, in poetry and fiction

- Gain an understanding of what it means to engage literary works in terms of a major genre or a major thematic orientation

- Learn how to perform a perceptive, interesting, meaningful close reading of a literary work

- Learn how to write a persuasive, articulate, coherent essay about a literary work and its place in a larger cultural context

- Gain a deepened appreciation for the power of literature to illuminate larger existential questions that are a part of every human life

Learning Outcomes for Intermediate Writing Course

Upon completing the W-designated course, students should understand writing as a means to practice academic inquiry and demonstrate the ability to formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing.

Upon completing the W-designated course, the student should be able to:

- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

Goals

The goal of the course is for you to gain elementary knowledge of how English literature was formed by canonical and influential writers in England and Ireland who developed major genres. Proceeding chronologically, we read lyrics, narrative poems, short stories, and a short novel.

Since this is a writing course, the second goal is for you to learn the conventions of academic writing and also to learn the process of editing your own work in order to improve it. You will write a one-page response every week, two short papers, and an essay-type mid-term exam. **The Writing and Public Speaking Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students at all levels and at any time in the writing process.**

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) attend classes regularly. More than four absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in seriously diminishing your grade for attendance and class participation. Eight or more absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations (preferably in advance of the absence) must be backed up with documentation, communicated to Dr. Vanita in writing and accepted by her. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to tell me at the end of class and to have yourself marked present.
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, **bring the text to class**, and participate in discussion;
- (c) Beginning 9th September, bring to class a **one-page typed** response or set of questions every Thursday in class, use it in discussion, and put it in a place I will indicate, at the end of class. I will send topics for these response papers in advance by email. Handwritten comments and those that are too short will not receive credit. This is part of the writing segment of the class so please write thoughtfully, employing correct grammar and spelling. No responses are required on 30 Sep, 14 Oct, 4 Nov and 9 Dec.
- (d) write two short papers (guidelines and topics will be provided in advance)
- (e) edit and rewrite whichever of the two papers gets a lower grade. The rewritten paper must follow the guidelines provided. You are strongly advised to meet Dr. Vanita during her office hours to discuss your paper before you rewrite it.
- (f) take the mid-term exam, all tests and quizzes, and complete all assignments. There will not be a final exam.

- (g) Quizzes on texts and lectures will be given in class. **Quizzes can be made up within the week (not more than thrice in the semester), but not later.** To make up a quiz, contact me on email to make an appointment. On days quizzes are given, attendance may be marked from the quiz. If you are late and miss a quiz, it is your responsibility to tell me at the end of class.
- (h) **Check UM email and Moodle regularly**, especially the day before class. Notifications and changes will be sent out by email. The best way to communicate with me is by email.

Grades

The two papers will be worth 15% each, class attendance and participation 20%, typed responses 20%, quizzes 15%, the mid-term exam 15%.

Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) and adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax.

Please note that the rewritten paper will be graded on the thoroughness of the rewriting. If, for example, you get a B for a paper, and your rewritten version of it shows hardly any changes, you will not get a B again. You will get a lower grade or no points at all.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

Testing

1. Quizzes may contain both multiple-choice type questions and short-answer questions. Quizzes are designed to test

(a) whether you have read the prescribed texts and the background notes

(b) whether you remember basic facts communicated in class lectures about the authors, the texts, and the contexts

2. Topics and guidelines for papers and the mid-term exam will be sent out by email and posted on Moodle. Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, papers handed in late, without my prior permission, will result in a decreased grade. The rewritten paper must be handed in on time; late papers will not be accepted.

3. If you take this course to fulfill General Education requirements or for the LIT major, you cannot take it Credit/No Credit, and you must earn a C minus to pass.

4. Help is available! Feel free to meet me during my office hours, especially when you are writing papers but also if you would like more explanation of any text. If you have classes during my office hours you can schedule appointments with me by emailing me with a list of times when you are available

5. If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as outlined here, please notify me in the first week of class, and discuss the matter with me. Please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 (406.243.2243).

"Trigger Warning"

Please note that most texts we read in this class deal with difficult issues, including but not restricted to unrequited and painful love, loss, violence, rape, poverty, slavery, illness, old age and untimely death (in addition to love, beauty, friendship, different types of gender and sexuality, joy and peace).

Notes on Covid and other matters

1. This class will be taught as a mixture of illustrated lectures, discussions of readings, and Q&A
2. Please turn off cell phones in class
3. Please address me as Dr Vanita or Prof Vanita
4. I have another class at 11.00, immediately after this one, therefore I cannot talk after class. If you wish to meet me outside of office hours, it's best to email me for an appointment.
5. Since I have to rush out after class (in order to set up power-points for the next one), and in order to maintain social distance, please remain seated until I have left the classroom.
6. Mask use is required in the classroom and in my office.
7. If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
8. UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
9. Please sit in the same seat in every class. This is required to support contact tracing efforts.
10. Please avoid drinking liquids and eating food in the classroom.

Help with writing is available from me, and also from the Writing Center, which is in Room 322 in the Mansfield Library. Contact Amy Ratto-Parks, 243-2133.

Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes and to obtain any hand-outs given in class in your absence.

There may also be minor changes in the syllabus from time to time. Any changes will be announced in class and updated on Moodle.

Readings indicated for a certain class are to be read in advance of that class, e.g. please read Wordsworth's poems before you come to class on 7 September. When reading a text on Moodle, you must also read the background note that accompanies that text.

Date	Assignment (to be completed before class)	Class Plan	In-class assignment
31 August		Explanation of syllabus, introduction to themes and genres in English literature, and background for the nineteenth century.	
2 September		Continue background: Romanticism. Sub-genres: lyric; narrative poem.	

7 September	Read Wordsworth's poems	Discuss the poems	
9 September	Read Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"	Discuss Coleridge	
14 September		Continue discussing Coleridge	
16 September	Read Percy Bysshe Shelley	Discuss Shelley Discuss writing	Quiz on lectures & readings up to 14 Sep
21 September	Read John Keats	Continue Shelley Start discussing Keats	
23 September		Continue Keats Background for the novel as a genre and the Victorian period. How to read a novel	
28 September	Read <i>Silas Marner</i> Chapters 1-2	Discuss <i>Silas Marner</i>	
30 September	Read <i>Silas Marner</i> Chapters 3-6 No response paper required today	Discuss <i>Silas Marner</i>	
5 October	Read <i>Silas Marner</i> Chapters 7-15	Discuss <i>Silas Marner</i>	
7 October	Read <i>Silas Marner</i> Chapters 16-18	Discuss <i>Silas Marner</i>	Quiz on lectures & readings 16 Sep-5 Oct
12 October	Read <i>Silas Marner</i> Chapters 19-end	Complete discussion of <i>Silas Marner</i> Discuss writing	
14 October	Prepare for mid-term exam No response paper required today	Review for mid-term. Background for the Victorian period	Quiz on <i>Silas Marner</i> , chaps 13-end
19 October		Mid-term exam	
21 October	Read Tennyson and Robert Browning	Discuss Tennyson. Start discussing Browning	
26 October	Read Elizabeth Barrett Browning	Discuss the Brownings	
28 October	Read D.G. Rossetti and Christina Rossetti	Discuss the Rossettis	

2 November	Read Oscar Wilde, "The Happy Prince."	Discuss Wilde. Background for the short story as a genre	Quiz on lectures and readings of 21 Oct-2 Nov
4 November	Read Katherine Mansfield stories No response required today	Discuss Mansfield	Paper due in class
9 November	Read Matthew Arnold and A.E. Housman	Discuss Arnold and Housman	
11 November		Veterans' Day. NO CLASS	
16 November		Background for modernism and the early 20 th century Discuss rewriting the paper	
18 November	Read Joyce, "The Dead," pp. 1-33	Discuss Joyce	
23 November	Read Joyce, "The Dead," pp. 33-end	Continue Joyce	Quiz on lectures and readings of 4-16 Nov
25 November		Thanksgiving	
30 November	Read Gerard Manley Hopkins	Discuss Hopkins	
2 December	Read W.B. Yeats	Discuss W.B. Yeats	
7 December	Read "Michael Field" (Katherine Bradley and Emily Cooper)	Discuss Michael Field	
9 December	No response required today	We will start watching the film "Wilde"	Quiz on readings 18 Nov-7 Dec Rewritten paper due in class
14 December 10.10-12.10		We will continue watching the film There is no final exam	

This course requires you to make an electronic submission (via Submittable) of an assignment stripped of your personal information. This paper should be the “Rewritten paper” submitted to me on 9 December. You will receive an email telling you how to submit the paper. Your paper will be stored in a database and used for educational research and assessment of the university’s writing program. A random selection of papers will be assessed by a group of faculty and staff using a rubric developed from the following Writing Learning Outcomes:

- *Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose*
- *Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing*
- *Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts*
- *Revise written work based on constructive feedback*
- *Find, evaluate, and use information effectively*
- *Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (largely style conventions like APA or MLA)*
- *Demonstrate appropriate English language usage*

This assessment in no way affects either your course grade or your progression at the university.