

Matèria: Literatura Anglesa i Nordamericana

Instructional Objectives

- I) Critical reading of the literature written in the British Isles from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day, paying attention to the historical and cultural contexts in which the texts have been produced.
- II) In-depth analysis of the cultural and literary production of the USA in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Thematic Blocks

- I)
Modernism: Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, Elizabeth Bowen
End of Empire: George Orwell
Post War Poetry: W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes
Working Class Fiction: Alan Sillitoe
Experiment: Muriel Spark
Science Fiction: Brian Aldiss
The Absurd: Samuel Beckett
Feminism: Doris Lessing
New Britain / Alternative Identities: Hanif Kureishi, Carol Ann Duffy
Postmodernism: Julian Barnes, A.S. Byatt

II) Ethics and Fiction, Ethics in Fiction, Jewish-American Fiction, Literature on the South-West, Southern Literature.

Assessment

Students shall be assessed on their familiarity with the main authors and literary currents of the period (20th and 21st centuries) and on their ability to produce critical readings of the following texts:

- I)
Novels:
Spark, Muriel. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1963)
Levy, Andrea. *Small Island* (2004) o Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go* (2005)

Short texts or fragments:

- “Kew Gardens” (Virginia Woolf, 1921)
- “The Hollow Men” (T.S. Eliot, 1925)
- The House in Paris* (Elizabeth Bowen, 1935)
- “Shooting an Elephant” (George Orwell, 1936)
- “As I Walked Our One Evening”, “September 1, 1939” (W.H. Auden 1937, 1939),
- Deaths and Entrances*, “Do not go gentle into the night” (Dylan Thomas, 1946, 1951),
- The Hawk in the Rain, Crow* (Ted Hughes 1957, 1970)
- “The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner” (Alan Sillitoe, 1959)
- “Super-Toys Last All Summer Long” (Brian Aldiss, 1968)
- Breath* (Samuel Beckett, 1969)
- “To Room Nineteen” (Doris Lessing, 1963)
- My Beautiful Laundrette* (Hanif Kureishi, 1985)
- Standing Female Nude, The World’s Wife* (Carol Ann Duffy 1985, 1999)

England, England (Julian Barnes, 1998)
“The Thing in the Woods” (A.S. Byatt, 2003)

II)

Malamud, Bernard. “The Last Mohican” (1958)
Cather, Willa. *The Professor’s House* (1925)
Faulkner, William. *Light in August* (1932)
Bellow, Saul. *Dangling Man* (1944)

Bibliography

I)

Ashby, J. and A. Higson. eds. 2000: *British Cinema: Past and Present*. London and New York: Routledge.
Bloom, C. ed. 1993: *Literature and Culture in Modern Britain*, vol. 1: 1900-1929. London and New York: Longman.
Bloom, C. and G. Day, eds. 2000: *Literature and Culture in Modern Britain*, vol. 3: 1956-1999. London and New York: Longman.
Day, G. ed. 1997: *Literature and Culture in Modern Britain*, vol. 2: 1930-1955. London and New York: Longman.
Fowler, R. ed. 1987 (1973): *A Dictionary of Modern Critical Terms*. London and New York: Routledge.
Sargeant, A. 2005: *British Cinema: A Critical History*. London: British Film Institute.
Sinfield, A. ed. 1983: *Society and Literature 1945-1970*. London: Methuen.

II)

Baym, Nina, ed. 2007: *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, vol. 2, New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
Eliot, Emory, ed. 1991: *The Columbia Literary History of the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press.
Lauter, Paul, ed. 1994: *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*, vol. 2, Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Company.
Millgate, Michael, ed. 1987: *New Essays on Light in August*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Swift, John N. and Joseph R. Urgo, eds. 2002: *Willa Cather and the American Southwest*. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press.