

Literary Theme Course Spring 2017 English II

Learning Outcomes

On completion of a literary theme course the student should be able to

- give an account of the content of the literary and critical texts studied in the course
- define the basic literary genres and describe some literary works from each genre
- identify and describe a number of literary works from different periods in the history of literature in English
- demonstrate a critical understanding of basic concepts and methods of literary criticism
- analyse literary texts applying such concepts and methods, orally and in writing
- formulate an independent interpretation of a literary text
- justify their own interpretations in a scholarly essay and in discussions.

Written exam (see exam schedule for details).

NOTE: the reading list is preliminary.

Theme course 1: Literature and the Technology of the Book: Beginnings through the Twentieth Century Irina Rasmussen Goloubeva

This course will trace the life story of literature and books, their physical and cultural evolution. Literary writing and book production as technologies have been vital to cultural and intellectual change. This course will study Anglo-American texts, across the major literary periods, in the context of the diverse printing and writing techniques and the manufacture and circulation of books. The question that will guide our reading will be how literary texts have represented the presence and the possibilities of writing as a technology. It will study literary texts in the context of the history of the technology of writing and book production.

Required Reading:

Reading will include a selection of 1800–2000 pages from the following list.

1. Greenblatt, Stephen, et. al. Eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature. The Major Authors*. Ninth Edition. Two-volume set. New York: W. W. Norton, 2012.

2. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (in The Norton Anthology)
3. William Shakespeare, *King Lear* (any edition)
4. Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders* (any edition)
5. Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (any edition)
6. Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (any edition)
7. Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim* (any edition)
8. Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (any edition)
9. Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (any edition)

Additional philosophical and critical essays on literary periods, genres, and individual authors will be assigned.