



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: The Literary Canon: How to Read Great Books

| Subject | Cat-nbr | Class | Term | Mode | Units | Campus |
|---------|---------|-------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| ENL | 3004 | 90997 | 2, 2009 | EXT | 1.00 | Toowoomba |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Academic group: | FOART |
| Academic org: | FOA003 |
| Student contribution band: | 1 |
| ASCED code: | 091523 |

STAFFING

Examiner: Chris Lee
Moderator: Brian Musgrove

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: 3 courses of Literature

SYNOPSIS

This course provides students with a range of strategies for reading 'great books'. A number of celebrated English literary texts will be examined in terms of their sophistication and value, framed within the context of historical debates about the cultural importance of Classic Literature and the social and political functions of an English literary canon.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Describe the formal characteristics of great books and critically apply this knowledge using specific examples drawn from different periods of literary history;
2. Critically discuss the cultural importance of Classic Literature within the context of the formation of the English literary canon, with reference to a number of celebrated English literary texts;
3. Research, devise and express an argument in written and oral forms which addresses objectives 1 and 2.

TOPICS

| Description | Weighting (%) |
|--|---------------|
| 1. What is a Classic? How to Read Great Books | 8.00 |
| 2. The Canon: Definitions, Formation and Problems | 8.00 |
| 3. A Cradle of Western Culture: Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' | 14.00 |

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|----|--|-------|
| 4. | Of the Devil's Party: Milton's 'Paradise Lost' | 14.00 |
| 5. | No Man is an Island: Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe' | 14.00 |
| 6. | Class and Cultivation: Austen's 'Mansfield Park' | 14.00 |
| 7. | The Midas touch: Eliot's 'Silas Marner' | 14.00 |
| 8. | A Literary Self: Joyce's 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man' | 14.00 |

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Austen, Jane 1998, *Mansfield park*, Norton, New York.

(Norton Critical Edition, edited by Johnson, Claudia)

Defoe, Daniel 1993, *Robinson crusoe*, 2nd edn, Norton, New York.

(Norton Critical Edition, edited by Shinagel, Michael)

Eliot, George 2008, *Silas marner, the weaver of raveloe*, Oxford University Press, New York.

Joyce, James 2008, *Portrait of the artist as a young man*, Oxford University Press, New York.

Milton, John 2004, *Paradise lost*, Norton, New York.

(Norton Critical Edition, edited by Teskey, Gordon)

Shakespeare, William 1992, *Hamlet*, 2nd edn, Norton, New York.

(Norton Ctitical Edition, edited by Hoy, Cyrus)

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Bloom, Harold 1994, *The western canon: the books and school of the ages*, Harcourt Brace, New York.

Bristol, Michael 1996, *Big-time Shakespeare*, Routledge, London.

Brown, Cedric 1995, *John Milton*, St Martin's Press, New York.

Court, Franklin E 1992, *Institutionalising English literature: the culture and politics of literary study, 1750-1900*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif.

Dodd, Valerie A 1990, *George Eliot: an intellectual life*, Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Donoghue, Frank 1996, *The fame machine: book reviewing and eighteenth century literary careers*, Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif.

Felperin, Howard 1990, *The uses of the canon*, Oxford University Press, New York.

Guillory, John 1993, *Cultural capital: the problem of literary canon formation*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

- Kaplan, Carey & Rose, Ellen Cronan 1990, *The canon and the common reader*, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, TENN.
- Kastan, David Scott 2001, *Shakespeare and the book*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- King, John 2000, *Milton and religious controversy*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Kramnick, Jonathan Brody 1998, *Making the English canon: print capitalism and the cultural past, 1700-1770*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- (Also electronic book)
- Lauter, Paul 1991, *Canons and contexts*, Oxford University Press, New York.
- Lewalski, Barbara Kiefer 2003, *The life of John Milton: a critical biography*, Blackwell, Oxford.
- Milner, Andrew 1996, *Literature, culture and society*, University College of London Press, London.
- Newlyn, Nancy 2001, *Paradise Lost and the romantic reader*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Silver, Victoria 2001, *Imperfect sense: the predicament of Milton's irony*, Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Terry, Richard 2001, *Poetry and the making of the English literary past, 1660-1781*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

| ACTIVITY | HOURS |
|---------------|--------|
| Examinations | 2.00 |
| Lectures | 14.00 |
| Private Study | 123.00 |
| Seminars | 28.00 |

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

| Description | Marks out of | Wtg (%) | Due date |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| ASSIGNMENT (2000 WORDS) | 100.00 | 35.00 | 28 Aug 2009 (see note 1) |
| RESEARCH ESSAY (2500 WORDS) | 100.00 | 40.00 | 16 Oct 2009 (see note 2) |
| EXAMINATION (2 HOURS) | 100.00 | 25.00 | END S2 (see note 3) |

NOTES

1. This assessment is aligned with all Objectives.
2. This assessment is aligned with all Objectives.
3. Students will be advised of the official exam date after the timetable has been finalised.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
It is the student's responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to

- study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. For this course, normal class attendance consists of one 1 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.
 - 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.
 - 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
 - 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
 - 6 Examination information:
The exam for this course is a CLOSED EXAMINATION, and candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.
 - 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any deferred or supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.
 - 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm>

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience. (e) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements. (f) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (g) Students who, for medical,

family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

- 10 Students can expect that questions in assessment items in this course may draw upon knowledge and skills that they can reasonably be expected to have acquired before enrolling in the course. This includes knowledge contained in pre-requisite courses and appropriate communication, information literacy, analytical, critical thinking, problem solving or numeracy skills. Students who do not possess such knowledge and skills should not expect to achieve the same grades as those students who do possess them.