

Ionian University

Department of Foreign Languages, Translation & Interpreting

EN-9100 Literature of Anglophone Countries (2 ECTS)

Spring semester 2021-2022

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Mantzaris

Email: [tmantzaris@ionio.gr](mailto:tmantzaris@ionio.gr)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a range of seminal texts from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. With focus on different Anglophone contexts, the course draws attention to literary texts from American, Canadian, Nigerian, British, and South-African authors in order to shape a deeper understanding of narrative practices as well as the socio-historical contexts they emerge from. Examining issues such as race, gender, and social class, this course explores the significant diversity in the use of the English language and its operations.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Familiarize themselves with a wide range of Anglophone literary texts from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day;
- Develop their understanding of social issues such as race, gender, and social class through the rigorous analysis of selected texts;
- Enhance their critical perspective and develop their skills of close reading and synthesis;
- Acquire an enriched understanding of the wider historical and cultural contexts that have shaped Anglophone literary production.

### **Assessment**

Essay (50%)

End of semester Exam (50%)

### **Teaching methods**

A series of weekly interactive Lectures will take place, involving class discussion and group-work activities. In addition, a number of hands-on workshops will take place, designed to add to students' engagement and their overall experience of the course.

## Course material

All texts mentioned in the syllabus as well as additional material used in the class sessions (PPT slides and so on) is available in electronic form through the platform **Open e-Class** with password **AngLit\_2022**

Week 1	Introduction to the course (syllabus, assessment, online platform, materials etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A brief overview of Anglophone literature</li><li>• Basic concepts in literary theory</li></ul>
Week 2	Modernism in America <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i></li></ul>
Week 3	The roaring 1920s <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i></li></ul>
Week 4	Postcolonial literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story" (speech)</li><li>• <i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i> (excerpt)</li></ul>
Week 5	South African literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• J.M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i> (excerpt)</li></ul>
Week 6	Emerging Voices in Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Khaled Hosseini, <i>The Kite Runner</i> (chapters 1-7)</li></ul>
Week 7	Narratives of Immigration and Displacement <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Valeria Luiselli, <i>Lost Children Archive</i> ("Relocations," "Box I," Routes &amp; Roots")</li></ul>
Week 8	Female Narratives of Slavery <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harriet Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (excerpt)</li></ul>
Week 9	Postapocalyptic narratives <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cormac McCarthy, <i>The Road</i> (excerpt)</li></ul>
Week 10	Dystopia and gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (excerpt)</li></ul>
Week 11	Workshop on contemporary literary voices
Week 12	Workshop on literary experimentation and the 21 <sup>st</sup> century multimodal novel
Week 13	Concluding remarks

### **Suggested bibliography**

- Andrews, William. *Six Women's Slave Narratives*. Oxford UP, 1988. The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers.
- Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. 3rd ed. Manchester UP, 2009.
- Bradbury, Malcolm. and James McFarlane, editors. *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930*. Penguin, 1991.
- Fitzgerald, Francis Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Scribner, 1996.
- Gibbons, Alison. *Multimodality, Cognition, and Experimental Literature*. Routledge, 2012. Routledge Studies in Multimodality.
- Kalaidjian, Walter, editor. *The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006.
- Li, Stephanie. "Motherhood as Resistance in Harriet Jacobs's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl." *Legacy*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 14-29.
- Lockridge, Ernest, editor. *Twentieth-Century Interpretations of The Great Gatsby: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Prentice-Hall, 1968.
- Marvcais, Dominique, et al., editors. *Literature on the Move: Comparing Diasporic Ethnicities in Europe and the Americas*. Universitätsverlag Winter, 2002.
- Sollors, Werner, editor. *Multilingual America: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, and the Languages of American Literature*. New York UP, 1998.
- Tawil, Ezra F., editor. *The Cambridge Companion to Slavery in American Literature*. Cambridge UP, 2016.