

Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ENGE1610 Introduction to Literature
Dr. Kirsten Lamb

(To be updated)

ENGE1610 Introduction to Literature

This course will introduce students to methods of reading literary texts from the major genres of fiction, poetry, and drama. It will illustrate basic literary terms and concepts, and closely study a variety of literary texts written in different times and countries. The emphasis will be on close reading, analysing how the meaning of a literary text is informed by its formal elements and literary conventions. At the same time, the course will also give students an awareness of the interaction between text and context, creative writing and critical reception, and the inheritance and transformation of literary tradition.

Content, highlighting fundamental concepts:

Topic	Concepts/ fundamental concepts
Introduction to Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - definition of 'literature' - issue of 'canon' - reading literature
Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plot, theme - character, point of view - setting, style, symbol
Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - poetic meaning: speaker, subject/situation, tone - poetic language: diction, syntax, imager, figurative language - poetic sound: metre, rhyme - poetic form: stanza forms, sonnet, free verse
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dramatic elements - stage properties - speech and dialogue - tragedy and comedy

Learning Outcomes:

After taking the course, students are expected to be able to:

- read literary texts closely;
- interpret literary texts open-mindedly;
- have a basic understanding of the literary terms and concepts learned in the course;
- develop an enjoyment of literature which will continue beyond the classroom.

Learning Activities

Lecture: 1hr 45min in class	Interactive tutorial: 45 minutes in class
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Assessment Scheme:

Description	Weight
Attendance and participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Quizzes & response paper	40%
Final Paper	40%

Learning resources for students:

Required Text:

Kelly J. Mays. Ed. *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. Shorter 13th Edition. New York: Norton, 2018.

Suggested further reading:

The Norton Introduction to Literature website. wnorton.com/litweb.

Baldick, Chris. *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. 2008. (Blackboard)

Cavanagh, Dermot. *The Edinburgh Introduction to Studying English Literature*. 2010. (Blackboard)

Peck, John and Martin Cole. *A Brief History of English Literature*. 2013 (UL PR83 P43 2013)

Feedback for evaluation:

Students are welcome to give feedback on the course at any time. They can do so by communicating to me directly or by email, by talking to the TAs, or by posting comments and questions to Blackboard.

Course schedule:

Week	Content	Reading
1	INTRODUCTION: defining literature; reading literature	Linda Brewer, '20/20'
2	FICTION 1: Plot; theme	Kate Chopin, 'The Story of an Hour'
3	FICTION 2: Character; point of view	Ernest Hemingway, 'Hills like White Elephants'
4	FICTION 3: Setting; style, symbol	Grace Paley, 'A Conversation with My Father'
5	POETRY 1: Poetic meaning: speaker; subject/situation; tone Poetic language: diction, syntax, imagery, figures	William Wordsworth, 'A Slumber did my Spirit Seal'; Billy Collins, 'Introduction to Poetry'
6	POETRY 2: Poetic sound: rhythm, rhyme; poetic form, sonnet	William Shakespeare, 'My mistress' eye are nothing like the sun'; Sherman Alexie, 'The Facebook Sonnet'
7	POETRY 3: Poetic form, free verse	W. H. Auden, 'Musée des Beaux Arts'; William Carlos Williams, 'Landscape with the Fall of Icarus'
8	Writing a literature paper; response paper	/
9	DRAMA 1: Dramatic elements	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> (lines 1-174)
10	DRAMA 2: Tragedy	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> (lines 756-913; 987-1142; 1173- 1252; 1305-1350)
11	DRAMA 3: Comedy	Oscar Wilde <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (Act I-II)
12	DRAMA 4: Guest speaker: Prof. Julian Lamb, 'The Impotence of Being Earnest'	Oscar Wilde <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (Act II-III)

Teacher's contact details:

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	
Name:	Dr. Kirsten Lamb
Email	klambcuhk@gmail.com

A facility for posting announcements:

Relevant announcements and course documents (eg. Lecture ppt, reading/written assignments, tutorial questions, etc.) will be posted regularly to Blackboard).

Academic honesty and plagiarism:

In your written assignments and presentation, all types of source materials, including online resources, must be properly acknowledged. All cases of failure to acknowledge would constitute plagiarism.

The University has implemented a zero tolerance policy against plagiarism and has required all written work to be submitted via Veriguide at

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide> .

To comply with University regulations, you are therefore asked to:

1. submit written work via Veriguide before the due date and print the receipt issued by Veriguide
2. submit a hard copy of written work, along with the receipt from Veriguide and the signed declaration of honesty (which comes with the Veriguide receipt). This must be stapled to your assignment.

Assignments without the receipt will NOT be graded.

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