



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

LIT 210 History of the Novel in English

Term: June 15 - July 16, 2020

Instructor: Professor Dwight Codr (pronounced “Deh-WHITE KO-der”)

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Location: WEB

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This course provides a broad introduction to the novel in the English literary tradition. And we will examine in particular how the genre’s emergence and development since the seventeenth century maps onto England’s emergence as a global, imperial power during this same period. We will see how key elements of the genre that preceded the novel – the romance – became realized in missions of New World exploration, the violence of slavery and colonialism, and the heroism of commerce and trade.

We will begin with Aphra Behn’s *Oroonoko*, a very early novel that incorporates elements of romance, the genre that preceded the novel. We will then turn our attention to a work widely regarded as having been the first great novel: *Robinson Crusoe*. We will pay special attention to the themes of education, empire, travel, and isolation, all of which are prominent themes of the next two novels in our sequence: Mary Shelley’s Gothic novel, *Frankenstein*, and Henry Mackenzie’s sentimental novel, *The Man of Feeling*. Concurrent with these readings will be the screening of a film based on a novel by Jane Austen (a rough contemporary of Mackenzie and Shelley and a crucial figure in the history of the novel).

We will then read a nineteenth-century boys’ novel, one that was inspired by Robinson Crusoe and that also looks forward to the rise of novels for young adults in the 20th century. We will also read a more cynical and more mature reflection on empire and slavery – themes which are also evident in Behn’s *Oroonoko* and Defoe’s *Crusoe* – Joseph Conrad’s novel *Heart of Darkness*. We will conclude our experience with the first book of the immensely popular series of Harry Potter novels, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, and ask whether *Harry Potter* constitutes a return to romance or a step forward in the history of the novel.

Course Goals:

The goals of this course are threefold:

1. To introduce students to some of the most important works of prose fiction written in English in the modern era.
2. To help students understand the major themes associated with these novels.
3. To help students to learn the formal and technical properties of the novel written in English (students will learn a variety of keywords useful for understanding and studying English literature and culture, such as irony, realism, satire, narrative point-of-view, and so forth).
4. To help students to understand the historical development of a literary genre, and to see how such a development is tied to historical and social changes.

Required Textbooks:

Oroonoko by Aphra Behn
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
The Man of Feeling by Henry Mackenzie
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

A small number of supplemental readings will be made available on the Baidu Cloud and are marked in the schedule below with the letters "PDF" in brackets. Students are expected to bring their copies of the assigned texts with them to every class. Failure to bring the assigned texts to class may result in the lowering of the student's grade by up to 1 letter grade. Students are strongly advised to read the editions of that have been provided for them. Lectures and discussions will make extensive use of these texts and you will want to have the same editions with the same page numbers as the one that the professor will be using. To this end, do not reformat the PDFs or otherwise alter their pagination. You may use your computer to access these texts in class, but you may also prefer to print them out and use paper copies.

Grading Policy:

The students' grades will be based on 1. a series of quizzes; 2. three presentations; and 3. two examinations OR three papers (the student may choose to pursue either the exam method or the paper method of evaluation).

Quizzes will test the students' comprehension of the basic facts of the novels: who are the principal characters? what is the plot of the story? where and when does the story take place? why does a certain event happen the way it does? what does a certain comment or remark tell us about a character or a situation? These and similar questions are designed to ensure that the students are doing the reading and understand the basic details of these novels.

Presentations will provide students with the opportunity to express their own individual ideas about the stories; specifically, students can either closely analyze one or two passages on

their own or to situate the text in a specific historical context (author biographies are prohibited as topics for presentations, though biographical details may be included in the presentations). Presentations must last for at least 8 minutes and no more than 15. Students must give three presentations over the course of the semester. Presentations must be on different novels.

Examinations will test students' ability to analyze the novels, to explain and apply critical terminology, and to understand some of the common themes of the English novel. These examinations are designed to test students' higher order thinking skills and analytical abilities.

Papers are designed to help students to develop their skills as writers of argumentative, analytical prose. Paper topics will be distributed one week prior to the due date for each essay and will be crafted in response to class discussions.

More concretely speaking, there will be 7 quizzes, each worth 10 points, for a total of 70 points. However, the student may use only up to 40 points towards his or her final grade from this category. Students scoring in excess of 40 total points on their 7 quizzes can only receive a maximum of 40 points for their quiz grade.

Exams will be worth 15 points each. Papers will be worth 10 points each. You cannot take the exams AND write the papers. You must choose one or the other path by the Monday of the second week of classes.

Presentations will be worth 10 points each, and students must give three presentations.

SUMMARY

Quizzes: 40 maximum points +
2 Exams/3 Papers: 30 maximum points +
Presentations: 30 maximum points =
100 total points

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1

Monday

Introduction

Course Syllabus and Expectations

Tuesday

Introduction to Romance

Marie de France "Lanval" [PDF]

Wednesday

Oroonoko (first half)

Thursday

Oroonoko (second half)

WEEK 2

Monday

Robinson Crusoe (2-12, 24-38, 43-45, 53-55, 56-57, 70-71, 74-77, 80-81, 92, 103, 105)

Evaluation Declaration Day (students must decide on this day whether they will pursue the essay or examination method of evaluation)

Tuesday

Robinson Crusoe (121-131, 132-145, 157-170, 192-197)

Wednesday

Robinson Crusoe (206, 215-217, 224, 225-229, 246-247)

Thursday

Ian Watt. *Rise of the Novel* [PDF]

John Richetti. *Popular Fiction before Richardson* [PDF]

Essay 1 Due (if you choose the essay method of evaluation)

WEEK 3

Monday

Introducing the Sentimental Novel

Man of Feeling (try to read as much as you can, but be sure to read 61-73, 75-77, 94-98)

Tuesday

Introducing Romanticism

Frankenstein (1-44)

Wednesday

Screening: *Pride and Prejudice* [Film]

Frankenstein (44-88)

Examination Review

Thursday

Frankenstein (91-130)

Midterm Examination (if you choose the examination method of evaluation)



WEEK 4

Monday

Frankenstein (130-258)

Tuesday

Treasure Island (parts 1-3)

Wednesday

Treasure Island (parts 4-6)

Thursday

Heart of Darkness

Essay 2 Due (if you choose the essay method of evaluation)

WEEK 5

Monday

Heart of Darkness

Chinua Achebe on *Heart of Darkness* [PDF]

Tuesday

Harry Potter (first half)

Wednesday

Harry Potter (second half)

Examination Review

Thursday

Examination/Final Essay Due (depending on your chosen method of evaluation; however, all students must attend class this day to fill out course evaluations)

Days in the schedule marked with a “P” are days on which students may give presentations. Students may choose any three days, but they must give presentations on at least two different novels (students cannot do all presentations on a single novel). My presentations dates are

1. _____ on the novel _____
2. _____ on the novel _____
3. _____ on the novel _____