



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

LIT 210 History of the Novel in English

Term: May 24 - June 24, 2021

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

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 mins per teaching 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)

Credit: 4 units

Teaching Assistant Information

The TA serves as a line of communication between the students and the professor. Students should speak with the TA if they intend to miss any classes and students should also speak with the TA if they have any questions about technology or accessing assigned readings from the Baidu Cloud or elsewhere.

Course Description:

This course provides a broad introduction to the novel in the English literary tradition. We will examine in particular how the novel 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 and to what extent 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 transformation of commercial activity from sordid venality into heroism. In sum, we will be interpreting the rise of the novel as an ideologically significant event, not simply a curious or trivial change in literary trends.

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 English 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 novel in our sequence: Mary Shelley’s Gothic novel, *Frankenstein*. Concurrent with these readings will be the screening of a film based on a novel by Jane Austen (a rough contemporary of 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 and we will think about how the novel helps to form subjects for capitalist societies. We will also read a more cynical and 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, a step forward in the history of the novel, and/or a neoliberal culmination of the forces of modernity that the novel is often said to celebrate.

Course Goals:

The goals of this course are fourfold:

1. To introduce students to some of the most important novels written in English in the modern era.
2. To help students understand the major themes and contexts of these novels.
3. To help students to learn the formal and technical properties of the novel written in English (irony, realism, satire, narrative point-of-view, and so on).
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 Texts:

"Lanval" by Marie de France
Oroonoko by Aphra Behn
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Beloved by Toni Morrison

We will also watch four films

Pride and Prejudice (based on Jane Austen), directed by Joe Wright
Treasure Island (based on Robert Louis Stevenson), directed by Fraser Clarke Heston
Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death (documentary relating to Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*), directed by Peter Bate
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (based on J.K. Rowling), directed by Chris Columbus

Grading Policy:

The students' grades will be based on 1. Participation in class meetings; 2. Three presentations; and 3. Three papers.

Participation will enable the instructor to measure the extent of 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. In the event of problems with participation, quizzes will be administered and graded. Participation includes asking questions. Participation is worth 40 points, total (2 points for each class period). The TA will keep a record of student participation.

Presentations will ask students to do two things. In part one of each the students' three presentations, the student must summarize the day's assigned reading. In part two, the student must choose one of six options for the rest of their presentation (author biography, historical context, personal reaction, adaptation/re-mediation, close reading, creative option; see Presentation Assignment Sheet for more details). 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. Each presentation is worth ten points (30 points, total).

Papers are designed to help students to develop their skills as writers of argumentative, analytical prose. Essay topics will be given to the students. Each paper is worth ten points (30 points, total).

GRADE SUMMARY

Participation: 40 points

Presentations: 30 points (10 points each)

Papers: 30 points (10 points each)

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

Other Grading Notes: In accordance with UIBE policies, if you miss more than 6 classes you will receive a failing grade for the course.

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Day 1: Welcome to the course!

Syllabus, Expectations, Presentation Sign-up

Day 2: From Romance to Novel

"Lanval" by Marie de France

Oroonoko by Aphra Behn



Day 3: From Romance to Novel
Oroonoko by Aphra Behn

Day 4: From Romance to Novel
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Reading: 2-12, 24-38, 43-45, 53-55, 56-57, 70-71, 74-77, 80-81, 92, 103, 105

Week 2

Day 5: The Rise of the Novel
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Reading: 121-131, 132-145, 157-170, 192-197

Day 6: The Rise of the Novel
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Reading: 206, 215-217, 224, 225-229, 246-247

Day 7: The Rise of the Novel
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Day 8: The Novel and European Romanticism
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
Reading: 1-44

Week 3

Day 9: Romantic Comedy and the Novel
Screening: *Pride and Prejudice*
Reading: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley 44-88

Day 10: Shelley and Austen
Frankenstein
Reading: 91-130

Day 11: Major Contexts for *Frankenstein*
Frankenstein
Reading: 130-224

Day 12: *Frankenstein's* Legacy
Frankenstein
224-258

Week 4

Day 13: The Novel and Adventure
Treasure Island

Reading: Part 1-2

Day 14: The Novel and Adventure

Screening *Treasure Island*

Reading: Parts 3-4

Day 15: The Novel and Adventure

Treasure Island

Screening: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Reading: Parts 5-6

Day 16: *Heart of Darkness*

Screening: *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*

Reading: *Heart of Darkness*, all

Week 5

Day 17: *Heart of Darkness*

Day 18: Slavery and the Novel

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Reading: First third

Day 19:

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Reading: Second 1/3

Day 20:

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Reading: Final 1/3

Online Possibility:

Due to the on-going pandemic, there is a possibility that in-person courses are changed to online ones. UIBE ISS will notify the students once the decision has been made.

If the in-person courses are to be changed to online courses, we will make a few adjustments:

1. **Lecture:** Each lecture will be uploaded on UIBE's online learning platform on a daily basis. Students are required to watch them according to the course schedule.
2. **Discussion:** There will be an open session on ZOOM every Wednesday. The attendance of the discussion is important as it is part of your final score.
3. **Office hours:** I will release the office hours once the course starts. You are very welcome to send me emails to book my time. We will have video or audio calls through ZOOM. Please be noted to book them at least 3 days in advance.