

LITERATURE 1A



AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Coördinator: Dr Evert Jan van Leeuwen

**LUCAS/English
Humanities Faculty
Leiden University
2018-2019**

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE COORDINATOR: Dr Evert Jan van Leeuwen; Tel: 071 527 3949; office: Eyckhof 4, 205C; email: e.j.van.leeuwen@hum.leidenuniv.nl

COURSE INFORMATION: 10 ECTS; level 100; language of instruction: English.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: During this course students (of English) will learn the basic skills necessary for the study of (English-language) literature. The student will learn how to analyse poetry, prose and drama by studying works from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. The focus will lie on the structural and stylistic elements of works of literature as well as their cultural and historical contexts. By doing a writing assignment students will take the first steps towards writing literary-critical essays.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course students will:

- have knowledge of key structural and stylistic aspects of poetry, drama and prose fiction.
- be able to apply key literary terms in their critical reading of literary texts.
- be able to independently formulate literary-critical questions, and thesis statements.
- be able to express their critical judgement in clear and well-structured academic prose.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (vintage)
- Greenblatt, Stephen, et al (eds.). *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 10th edition (Norton) [NOTE: Not the abbreviated "Major Authors" edition].
- Klarer, Mario. *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. THIRD EDITION (Routledge 2013)
- Hitchcock (dir), *Rear Window* (DVD)

EXAMINATION:

- One essay during the mid-term period. Essays found to contain plagiarism will be sent directly to the board of examiners.
- A three-hour end-of-term exam in December 2018, or early January 2019 on all the material covered in the course.
- Resit exams will be scheduled during one of the resit-exam periods in 2019; either in late January or in March, depending on the date of the end-of-term exam.

THE BLACKBOARD SITE: The reading for week one and two, a weekly reading programme for the full semester, assignment details and the visuals and/or quotations discussed during the lectures will be posted on the Blackboard site. Make sure you **sign up** to the Blackboard site, so you can access all content and your tutor can use Blackboard to send emails. You will also have to submit a digital copy of your **essay** via Turnitin on Blackboard.

FILING AND STORING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Make sure you save a copy of every assignment you submit for every course. Once in a while an assignment gets mislaid, goes missing, or is stolen from the student pigeonholes. If you have a back-up at home, you only need to resubmit the assignment and the problem is solved. If you do not have a back-up, you may have to start from scratch. When your assignment is graded and returned, store it away safely in a folder. Never throw away a hard copy of an assignment that is returned to you with a grade and feedback. Save all hard copy and/or

digital versions of graded papers until you have received your final degree. This way any issues concerning grades and feedback received for past coursework can be easily resolved.

DEADLINES: Deadlines are set so that students are able to finish all coursework on time before the exam periods. Deadlines also exist to allow students to plan their studies ahead, and to allow tutors to plan the marking of all coursework. Course work submitted on time will be returned on time, which allows the student to be able to use the feedback to improve on the next assignment. Late submissions may be accepted by your tutor but may not be corrected until the re-sit period. Here follows a selection of often heard invalid excuses for late submission of course work: “my printer did not work,” “I had to go on holiday because it was already booked,” “I had to do stuff at the *studentenvereniging*,” “I had to do an assignment for another course,” “my dog ate my essay.”

ABOUT THE READING: As preparation for each week’s lecture and tutorial, you will read one or more literary texts and will be asked to study parts of Klarer’s *Introduction to Literary Studies*. Most of the literary texts can be found in either volume 1 (A – C) or volume 2 (D – F) of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 9th edition. E-texts made available through the Blackboard site should be printed and brought to the tutorial with your notes. The book-length texts not available in *The Norton Anthology* or on Blackboard can be obtained from one of the bookstores in town. If for whatever reason these bookstores cannot sell you a copy, try: bol.com, or amazon.co.uk. Some texts are clearly longer and/or more difficult to read than others. Plan your reading ahead so that you do not run into difficulties towards the end of the semester.

THE WEEKLY PROGRAMME: Each week in the lecture students will be introduced to a fundamental formal aspect of literature, a central critical concept, or an analytical tool within literary studies. The tutorials are designed to allow students to discuss the material, to put key critical concepts into practice and to further develop their understanding of the material introduced in the lectures. The course is divided into an introductory week and three main sections: one section on the formal aspects of studying poetry and prose fiction; one section on essay writing and one section on studying literature, drama and film in different contexts.

RETURNING COURSEWORK: All course work assignments submitted on the deadline will be returned to the student pigeonholes around the first week of January 2017. Remember that your tutor may make other arrangements to return course work depending on his or her personal schedule. If in doubt, contact your tutor.

In the weekly programme the following short-hand is used:

- NAEL = a text available in the *Norton Anthology of English Literature* (9th edition).
- Klarer = a chapter or section in Klarer’s *An Introduction to Literary Studies* (3rd edition).
- Blackboard = a text available as a PDF or via a link on Blackboard.
- Baldick = The online version of the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* (4th edition) by Chris Baldick. This source is available via the university library catalogue. Note: there are four versions of this book in the library, so make sure to find **the online version**, which you can access from home. Next to Klarer’s *Introduction*, Baldick’s book is an invaluable resource for all BA students of literature.

The Literature 1A Weekly Programme for 2017-2018

Introduction

Week 1: Monday 10 September to Friday 14 September

- Lecture Topic: From Reading to Studying Literature.
- Reading Material:
 - Blackboard: Each tutor will post a document with poems in the Week 1 folder on the Course Documents page in Blackboard. Download and print this document and bring it to your tutorial.
 - Blackboard: Gordon Graham, “Art and Understanding” (PDF).
 - Klarer: “Chapter 1: What is Literature? What is a Text?”
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: the Glossary”: close reading, defamiliarization, affective fallacy, imagery, intentional fallacy, literature, poetry or poem, primary source.

Part I: The Relation Between Form and Content in Poetry

Week 2: Monday 17 September to Friday 21 September

- Lecture Topic: Prosody and Figures of Sound.
- Reading Material:
 - Blackboard: The same poems assigned by your tutor for week 1; read them now with a focus on metre and sound.
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 2: Major Genres”: the section titled “Poetry.”
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: alliteration, anapest, assonance, couplet, dactyl, end rhyme, eye rhyme, foot, iambus, internal rhyme, lyric poetry, meter, onomatopoeia, quatrain, rhyme, rhythmic- acoustic dimension, spondee, stanza, tercet, trochee.

Week 3: Monday 24 September to Friday 28 September

- Lecture Topic: Figurative Language.
- Reading Material:
 - NAEL: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of Ancient Mariner” and Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market.”
 - Klarer: revise Chapter 2: Major Genres”: the section titled “Poetry.”
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: the Glossary”: ballad, metaphor, narrative poetry, simile, symbol.
 - Baldick: allegory.

Week 4: Monday 1 October to Friday 5 October

- No Lecture and no tutorials due to 3rd of October celebrations this week.

Part II: Researching and Writing Academically About Literature

Week 5: Monday 8 October to Friday 12 October

- Lecture: Essay Writing 1: Essay topics, research questions and (provisional) thesis statements.
- Reading Material
 - NAEL: “Goblin Market” and “Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” **including** the author introductions to Coleridge and Rossetti in the *Norton Anthology*, as well as the footnotes to the poems.
 - Klarer: Chapter 6: “How to Write a Research Paper.”
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: introductory paragraph, thesis statement.
- **Writing Assignment** instructions will be posted on Blackboard. The **deadline** for the assignment is the tutorial in **Week 9**, after the mid-term week.

Week 6: Monday 15 October to Friday 19 October

- Lecture: Essay Writing 2: body paragraphs, quotations, references and MLA style.
- Reading Material:
 - Blackboard: One critical essay on “Goblin Market” and one on “Rime of the Ancient Mariner.” You can find (instructions on how to access) these articles on Blackboard.
 - Klarer: “Chapter 5: Where and How to Find Secondary Literature.”
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: Bibliography or list of works cited, concluding paragraph, paraphrase, parenthetical citation, quotation, secondary source, topic sentence.
 - Read also the basic principles of MLA style document posted on Blackboard.

Week 7: Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October

- Mid-term Study/Exam Week
- Complete the writing assignment handed out in Week 5.
- Deadline: your Literature 1A tutorial in week 8.

Part III: Critical Approaches to Literature

Week 8: Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November

- Lecture: Formalism and Prose Fiction: narrators and plots.
- Reading Material:
 - Henry James, “The Turn of the Screw” and Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”. E-texts available via Blackboard.
 - Klarer: the section titled “Fiction” in Chapter 2.
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: character, characterisation, climax, complication or conflict, denouement, exposition. figural narrative situation, first-person narration, flashback, flat character, focalization, foreshadowing, heterodiegetic narrator, homodiegetic narrator, minor character, narrative situation, narrative voice, narratology, narrator, novella or novelette, omniscient point of view, plot, protagonist, round character.
- **Essay Deadline.** Do not forget to submit your essay for grading this week.

Week 9: Monday 5 November to Friday 9 November

- Lecture: Literature and History
- Reading Material:
 - NAEL: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*.
 - Klarer: the section titled “Context Oriented Approaches” in Chapter 4.
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: new historicism, showing, telling.

Week 10: November to Friday 16 November

- Lecture: Literature and Ideology
- Reading Material:
 - Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*.
 - Terry Eagleton, “What is Ideology?” PDF on Blackboard.

Week 11: Monday 19 November to Friday 23 November

- Lecture: Literature and Society
- Reading:
 - Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*
 - Coral Ann Howels, “Margaret Atwood’s Dystopian Visions: *The Handmaid’s Tale* and *Oryx and Crake*.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Margaret Atwood*. Available via the university library catalogue.

Part IV: Studying Drama and Film

Week 12: Monday 26 November to Friday 30 November

- Lecture: An Introduction to the Study of Drama.
- Reading Material:
 - NAEL: Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*.
 - Klarer: the section titled “Drama” in Chapter 2.
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: act, actor, alienation effect, aside, comedy, drama, *mise en scène*, monologue or soliloquy, performance, performing arts, scene, stage, theatre of the absurd, three unities, tragedy, transformation.
 - Baldick: soliloquy (Klarer is unclear about the difference between monologue and soliloquy; Baldick’s definition clarifies the matter).

Week 13: Monday 3 December to Friday 7 December

- Lecture: An Introduction to the Study of Film.
- Viewing Material:
 - Alfred Hitchcock (dir), *Rear Window* (DVD).
 - Klarer: the section titled “Film” in Chapter 2 and the section titled “Film Theory” in Chapter 4.
 - Klarer: from “Chapter 8: The Glossary”: acoustic dimension of film, camera angle, camera movement, directing, editing, feminist film studies, film, film narratology, film semiotics, film stock, film studies, film theory, framing, montage, psychological film theory, running time, spatial dimension of film.

Week 14: Monday 10 December to Friday 14 December

- Evaluation/Catch-up Session

There will be a three-hour end-of-term exam just before Christmas 2018 or in January 2019.
The date of the end-of-term exam will be published in USIS and Blackboard as soon as it is known.

Some final advice from the course coordinator:

Remember that everything you read in Klarer is an introduction to the subject of literary studies. Throughout your studies as a student of English Language and Culture at Leiden University you will build on the literary-critical concepts introduced by Klarer in his book. But make sure not to forget the basics Klarer introduces to you. They are the foundation stones of your literary-critical knowledge and skills. Apart from paying attention in all your further lectures and tutorials on literary topics, I would advise you to keep reading literary criticism and theory by visiting the library every semester and to seek out books and articles on the literary topics that you come across in your studies and that interest you most. Reading literary criticism is a good way to familiarise yourself with the way in which critical arguments are structured and what a proper academic register is for your essays. Good luck with your further studies.