



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

LIT 210 History of the Novel in English

Term: July 8 – August 2, 2019

Instructor: Professor Dwight Codr (pron. Doo-WHITE KO-der)

Home Institution: University of Connecticut

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Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 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)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This course provides a broad introduction to the novel in the English literary tradition. 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 discuss how the novel defined itself in opposition to romance, and 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 novel in our sequence: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, a novel that celebrated its 200th anniversary this year. 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 darker 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*.

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).

Required Textbook:

[ISBN NUMBERS TBD]

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

Grading Policy:

The students' grades will be based on 1. a series of quizzes; 2. two presentations; and 3. two examinations. 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 two presentations over the course of the semester [Note to recruiter: depending on the number of students enrolled in the course, these numbers may change].

Examinations will test students' ability to analyze the novels, to explain and apply critical terminology (keywords raised in lectures and discussions), 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.

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

Class Rules:

1. Students are expected to be in class.
2. Students are expected to be prepared for class. Specifically, students should be prepared to answer questions during all class sessions and to ask questions as well.
3. Students are expected to show respect and kindness towards other students and the professor. This means, among other things, that at no time should students use electronic devices for any purpose unrelated to classroom activities.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class. Quizzes will not be announced in advance, so if you miss a class, there is a good chance that you will miss a quiz. There will be no make up quizzes or examinations except in cases of medical or other excused emergency (documentation must be provided to prove that the absence was justified). There is no separate grade for attendance or participation.

Course Schedule:

Actual dates are not necessary, instead, you can use Day 1, Day 2... etc.

Day 1, Mon: Introduction to the English Novel

Discussion of Expectations.

Getting to know one another.

Day 2, Tues: A Story on the Brink: *Oroonoko* and Romance

Reading: First half.

Basic elements of English romance.

Day 3, Wed: A Story on the Brink: *Oroonoko* and the Novel

Reading: Second half.

What makes *Oroonoko* a novel?

Major themes of the early novel.
The slave trade and the early novel.

Day 4, Thurs: What was novel about the novel?: *Robinson Crusoe*
Reading: First 1/3.

Presentations.

Individualism and the Novel.

In-class reading activity: Ian Watt. *The Rise of the Novel*.

Day 5, Fri: Travel and the Novel: *Robinson Crusoe*
Reading: Second 1/3.

Presentations.

In-class reading activity: John Richetti. *Popular Fiction before Richardson*.

Day 6, Mon: The Novel of Sentiment: *The Man of Feeling*
Reading: First half.

Formal experiments in the novel.

Day 7, Tues: The Novel of Sentiment: *The Man of Feeling*
Reading: Second half.

Virtue, Feeling, and the Novel.

Masculinity and the Novel of Sentiment.

Day 8, Weds: Gothic, Romanticism and the Novel: *Frankenstein*
Reading: First volume.

Presentations.

Narrative layering.

Day 9, Thurs: Gothic, Romanticism and the Novel: *Frankenstein*
Reading: Second volume.

Presentations.

Day 10, Fri: *Frankenstein*: The Myth and the Novel
Reading: Third volume.

Two hundred years of *Frankenstein*.

Frankenstein in the modern era.

Examination Review.

Day 11, Mon: Midterm Examination
Midterm Examination.

Day 12, Tues: Return to Crusoe's Island: *Treasure Island*
Reading: Parts 1 & 2.

Presentations.

Day 13, Weds: Boyhood and the Novel: *Treasure Island*

Reading: Parts 3 & 4.

Presentations.

Models of Masculine Authority (and a visit from Crusoe).

Day 14, Thurs: Violence, Ideology, and the Novel: *Treasure Island*

Reading: Parts 5 & 6.

Presentations.

Day 15, Fri: Modernism and the Novel: *Heart of Darkness*

Reading: As this is a very short novel – a novella, in fact – please read it in its entirety for this class.

Impressionism, Modern Painting, and the Novel.

Presentations.

Day 16, Mon: Empire, England, Africa: *Heart of Darkness*

The Critique of Empire and Racism: Achebe's Critique.

Presentations.

Day 17, Tues: The Contemporary Novel, or, A Return to Romance?: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Reading: First 1/3

Presentations.

What is novelistic about the world of Harry Potter?

Day 18, Weds: More boys in novels: Gender and Harry Potter

Reading: Second 1/3

Hermione.

Presentations.

Day 19, Thurs: The Contemporary Novel, Film, and the End of the World

Reading: Final 1/3

The Apocalyptic Imagination.

Presentations.

Concluding thoughts.

Final Examination Review.

Day 20: Fri: Final Examination

Final Examination.



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