



**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”)

Home Institution: University of Connecticut (PhD Cornell University)

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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)

Location: WEB

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

Course Schedule:

Notes:

1. Some lectures will be divided up over two recordings. This is to make it easier to record, upload, and download (smaller file sizes being easier to work with and less liable to glitching). When this is the case, be sure to watch both parts. Lectures divided in this way are not noted in the schedule below.
2. This course is primarily asynchronous, but I have provided guidelines for reading amounts for most days. When we meet for Zoom meetings, you must have read through the readings assigned up to the date of that meeting.



3. The reading assigned is sometimes very difficult. If you are struggling, do your best to keep up. It sometimes help to jump ahead a few pages if you can't grasp what is happening on a given page or in a single scene. The important thing is not to give up and, when you are struggling, to be sure to write down where you got confused and to ask the Professor about those pages.

4. On days when you must present, you do not need to use your webcam to show your person, but you must be visually present in some way (e.g., a PowerPoint or similar presentation).

Week 1

Monday, May 24, 2021

Watch Lecture: "Greetings, Introduction, Welcome"

Watch Lecture: "Introduction to History of the Novel in English" (This is a very important lecture. Please watch it early and carefully. It contains details about the course requirements, the syllabus, the reading schedule, assignments, Zoom meetings, the TA, and other procedural matters).

Watch Lecture: "What counts as cheating?"

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Watch Lecture: "Introduction to Prose Fiction before the Novel"

READ Marie de France "Lanval"

READ *Oroonoko* (first half)

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

READ *Oroonoko* (second half)

Zoom Meeting 1 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Meeting each other "in person"
- Discuss "romance and the novel"
- Discuss *Oroonoko*
- Sign up for presentations [Please decide before this Zoom meeting which days you would like to give your presentations on; remember, you must give three presentations and each presentation must be on a different novel. A maximum of three presentations are allowable on any given day.]

Thursday, May 27 2021

Essay 1 Assigned

Week 2

Monday, May 30, 2021

Watch Lecture: "Introducing *Robinson Crusoe*: Protestantism, the Spirit of Capitalism, and Empire (and other ways of reading 'the first novel')"

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



Tuesday, June 1, 2021

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

Zoom Meeting 2 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Presentations
- Discuss *Robinson Crusoe*
- Discuss Essay 1 (bring any questions that you might have about the essay prompt)

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

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

Zoom Meeting 3 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Presentations on *Robinson Crusoe*
- Discuss the end of *Robinson Crusoe*
- Discuss Essay 1 (bring any questions that you might have about the essay prompt)

Thursday, June 3 2021

Essay 1 Due

Week 3

Monday, June 7 2021

Watch Lecture: "Sentimentalism, Sensibility, and the Novel of Feeling"

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

Tuesday, June 8 2021

Zoom Meeting 4 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Discuss Essay 1
- Presentations on *Man of Feeling*
- Discuss *Man of Feeling*

Wednesday, June 9 2021

READ *Frankenstein* (1-44)

Watch Movie: *Pride and Prejudice* [Film]

Thursday, June 10 2021

READ *Frankenstein* (44-88)

Zoom Meeting 5 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Presentations on *Frankenstein*
- Discuss *Frankenstein*
- Discuss *Pride and Prejudice*

Friday, June 11 2021

READ *Frankenstein* (91-130)

Essay 2 Assigned



Week 4

Monday, June 14 2021

Watch Lecture: “*Frankenstein: A Masterplot for Modernity*”

READ *Frankenstein* (130-258)

Tuesday, June 15 2021

Zoom Meeting 6 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Presentations on *Frankenstein*
- Discuss *Frankenstein*
- Discuss Essay 2 (bring any questions that you might have about the essay prompt)

Wednesday, June 16 2021

Watch Movie: *Treasure Island*

READ *Treasure Island* (parts 1-3)

Thursday, June 17 2021

Watch Lecture: “*Children and the English Novel: Models of Masculinity and Empire*”

READ *Treasure Island* (parts 4-6)

Zoom Meeting 7

- Presentations on *Treasure Island*
- Discuss *Treasure Island*
- Discuss Essay 2 (bring any questions that you might have about the essay prompt)

Friday, June 18 2021

Essay 2 Due

Essay 3 Assigned

Week 5

Monday, June 21 2021

Watch Movie: *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*

Watch Lecture: “*Heart of Darkness: Conrad, Racism, Empire, and Achebe*”

READ *Heart of Darkness* (all)

Tuesday, June 22 2021

Zoom Meeting 8 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):

- Discuss Essay 2
- Presentations on *Heart of Darkness*
- Discuss *Heart of Darkness*
- Discuss Essay 3 (bring any questions that you might have about the essay prompt)

Wednesday, June 23 2021

READ *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (all)

Zoom Meeting 9 (9AM CST; 9PM EST):



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- Presentations on *Harry Potter*
- Discuss *Harry Potter*
- Discuss Essay 3 (bring any questions that you might have about the essay prompt)

Thursday, June 24 2021

Essay 3 Due