



COURSE OUTLINE

THE MODERN NOVEL

This course covers the work of prominent British authors of the twentieth century, including the original modernists, E.M Forster and Virginia Woolf, Evelyn Waugh, Iris Murdoch and John Fowles and culminating in the postmodern works of Kazuo Ishiguro and Ian McEwan. .

Particular attention is paid to characterisation, genre and structure, also the impact of the social and cultural climate on these famous authors and their influential works. It consists of a general survey and in-depth analysis of specific texts. The development of the novel from Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* is also charted in outline, examining its various forms: the epistolary, the gothic, the bildungsroman, the social commentary and the stream of consciousness. Core texts are set out below.

The Dawn of Modernism

Core Text: *A Passage to India* E M Forster

Secondary text: *To the Lighthouse* Virginia Woolf

The Threat of War

Core Text: *A Handful of Dust* Evelyn Waugh

Postmodernism in the 60s

Core Text: *The French Lieutenant's Woman* John Fowles

Secondary Text: *An Unofficial Rose* Iris Murdoch

Later Postmodernism

Core Text: *Enduring Love* Ian McEwan

Secondary Text: *The Remains of the Day* Kazuo Ishiguro

Overall Assessment & Assessment Criteria

Students will be awarded a final grade based on classroom contribution and attendance, satisfactory completion of assignments, and on the submission of at least four written papers relating to the core texts.

Written work is assessed on the understanding that there is no right or wrong answer in literature: only a good or bad one. A first-hand, personal and textually informed response is the touchstone for a high grade.

Assessment Criteria

DISTINCTION Grade A	Continuous active and informed participation in class work and discussions. Critical analysis, oral and written, is excellent, lucid and interesting. A solid body of work that demonstrates a firm grounding in the techniques of novel writing, written with cogency and flair. Good presentation and communication skills.
CREDIT Grade B	The student has a good basic knowledge and understanding of the narrative tradition and of the craft of the novel. Competent discussion and analysis in essay writing. Signs of considerable effort and ability.
MERIT Grade C	Some enthusiasm for class participation with adequate preparation and presentation. Satisfactory completion of essay writing task. Evidence of effort and improvement .
PASS Grade D	Completion of essay-writing task. Some acceptable class participation.
FAIL	None of the criteria listed above.

Recommended Reading

All core texts should be read before the course begins. If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://www.bookshop.blackwell.co.uk> or www.Amazon.co.uk