

Nanyang Technological University  
**HLI003: Survey of English Literature II**  
Semester 2, 2015-2016



Lecturer: Dr. Graham Matthews  
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**Overview:**

This survey provides an introduction to influential literary works from Romanticism to the present. Lectures will present historical and cultural contexts while in seminars and workshops close readings of primary texts will reveal the ways in which these contexts helped to shape the formal and aesthetic developments of each time period.

In offering the study of a number of canonical texts, this course offers insight into the revolution in poetry achieved by the Romantics, the rise of the novel as a new genre, the experimental nature of nineteenth-century literature, the impact of modernity on literary form, the rise of post-colonialism and postmodernism, as well as the ways in which these developments have defined our understanding of literature and culture.

**Core Texts**

Greenblatt et al (Eds). *The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volume 2*. New York: Norton, 2006. ISBN: 0-393-92532-3.

Dickens, Charles. *Hard Times*. New York: Bantam, 2004. ISBN: 0-553-21016-5.

Remaining texts will be provided in electronic form.

**Course Assessment**

Essay (1500 - 2000 words): 40%

Presentation: 10%

Final Exam: 50%

Lecture Schedule		
Week	Topic	Reading
1	Romanticism: Themes and Context	Blake, <i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i> ; Burke excerpt; Wollstonecraft, Introduction to <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>
2	Romanticism:	Wordsworth, excerpts from <i>The Prelude</i> ; Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; 'Tintern Abbey'; Shelley, 'Ozymandias'; Keats, 'Ode to a Grecian Urn'
3	The Gothic	excerpts from Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
4	Victorian Literature: Themes and Context	Darwin, from <i>The Descent of Man</i> ; Engels, from <i>The Condition of the Working Class in England</i> ; Macaulay, from 'Minute on Indian Education'; Arnold, 'Sweetness and Light'
5	Realism and the Novel	Charles Dickens, <i>Hard Times</i>
6	Decadence and Aestheticism	Oscar Wilde, <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> ; Walter Pater, excerpt from <i>The Renaissance</i>
7	War Poetry	Owen, 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', 'Futility', 'Dulce et Decorum Est', Sassoon, 'Glory of Women', 'The General', 'The Rear-Guard'
8	Recess Week	N/A
9	Modernism: Themes and Context	Woolf, 'Modern Fiction'; Eliot, 'Tradition and Individual Talent'; Marinetti, 'The Futurist Manifesto'
10	Modern Poetry	Eliot, 'The Waste Land'; Yeats, 'The Rose', 'Nineteen Ninety Nine', 'The Circus Animals' Desertion', excerpt from 'The Philosophy of Shelley's Poetry'
11	Modernism and the Novel	excerpts from Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>
12	Postcolonialism	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> ; Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, 'Decolonising the Mind'
13	Postmodernism	John Barth, 'Lost in the Funhouse'; Fredric Jameson, 'Postmodernism'