

HL1001: Introduction to the Study of Literature

Professor: Dr. Kevin Riordan (kriordan@ntu.edu.sg)

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Lecture: Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 (Lecture Theater 25)

Office Hours (HSS 03-71): TBD

Course Description

HL1001 is an introduction to the study of literature at the tertiary level. The course's primary goal is to further develop students' critical reading and writing skills. With the readings, we will pay particular attention to questions of form, style, and context. Through the written assignments, students will become comfortable and confident with the conventions of academic writing while working to develop compelling and well-supported arguments. As we read across a wide range of genres and traditions, our discussions will be focused thematically on the *place* of literature and on the ways in which it travels. This class will call on you to be curious, creative, inquisitive, reflective, and critical.

Core texts:

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Dover)
Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Dover)
Coetzee, *Foe* (Penguin)
Course Reader (Available in HSS B1)

Course Assessment:

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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Paper 1 (Textual Analysis) | 15 % |
| Paper 2 (Comparative Analysis) | 20 % |
| Preparation and Participation | 15 % |
| <u>Final Exam</u> | <u>50 %</u> |
| | 100 % |

Final Exam: The final exam will contain essay questions about Coetzee's *Foe* and Beckett's *Endgame* as well as short answer questions drawing on the entire course.

Late Policy: All written work is due in hard copy and soft copy (on NTU Learn) at the start of class. Late work will be accepted within twenty-four hours for a reduced grade and it will receive no instructor comments.

Plagiarism disclaimer: Please see the divisional policy of plagiarism here:
<http://www3.ntu.edu.sg/hss2/english/Plagiarism.pdf>

Prospective Itinerary

Week 1 – Situating Ourselves

August 10 – Course Introduction and Borges, “On Exactitude in Science”

Week 2 – Here and There

August 17 – Kincaid, from *A Small Place*; Lahiri, “The Interpreter of Maladies;” Jin, “After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town”

Week 3 – Landing on an Island

August 24 – Shakespeare, selected sonnets and *The Tempest*
(August 25 – Union Day (Flexible Tutorials))

Week 4 – Leaving the Island

August 31 – Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Week 5 – Questions of Travel

September 7 – Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*; selected Romantic poetry
Draft of Essay 1 Due in Tutorial

Week 6 – Letters from Afar

September 14 – Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Essay 1 Due in Lecture

Week 7 – Onwards and Outwards

September 21 – Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Reading Recess

Week 8 – Moving Pictures and Poetry

October 5 – Selected modern poetry

Week 9 – From Space to Time

October 12 – Screen *La Jetée* (in-class)
Essay 2 Proposal Due in Tutorial

Week 10 – Out of Space and Time

October 19 – Beckett, *Endgame*

Week 11 – Still There

October 26 – Beckett, *Endgame*
Essay 2 Due in Lecture

Week 12 – Island Returns

November 2 – Coetzee, *Foe*

Week 13 – Ways of Ending

November 9 – Coetzee, *Foe*

FINAL EXAM: Friday, November 25