

HL1001: Introduction to the Study of Literature

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

Tutors: TBD

Lecture: Wednesday 14:30–16:30 (live on Zoom)

Office Hours (HSS 03-72): Email for an appointment (virtual or in-person)

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 range of genres and traditions, our discussions will be focused thematically on the *place* of literature and 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* (Folger)

Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Dover)

Coetzee, *Foe* (Penguin)

Course Reader (available B1 shop in SHHK)

Course Assessment:

Paper 1 (Textual Analysis) 15%

Paper 2 (Comparative Analysis) 20%

Preparation & Participation 15%

Final Examination 50%

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

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

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. For more details see the School's notice: <http://www.soh.ntu.edu.sg/Programmes/Undergraduate/current/Pages/Plagiarism.aspx>

Prospective Itinerary

Week 1 – Situating Ourselves

August 11 – Course Introduction; Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (optional)

Week 2 – Here and There

August 18 – Kincaid, from *A Small Place*; Lahiri, "The Interpreter of Maladies;" Jin, "After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town"

Week 3 – Landing on an Island

August 25 – Shakespeare, selected sonnets and *The Tempest*

Week 4 – Leaving the Island

September 1 – Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Week 5 – Questions of Travel

September 8 – Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*; selected Romantic poetry

Draft of Essay 1 Due in Tutorial

Week 6 – Letters from Afar

September 15 – Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Essay 1 Due in Lecture

Week 7 – Onwards and Outwards

September 22 – Shelley, *Frankenstein*

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Week 8 – Moving Pictures and Poetry

October 6 – Selected modern poetry

Week 9 – From Space to Time

October 13 – *La Jetée* Viewing

Essay 2 Proposal Due in Tutorial

Week 10 – Out of Space and Time

October 20 – Beckett, *Endgame*

Week 11 – Still There

October 27 – Beckett, *Endgame*

Essay 2 Due in Lecture

Week 12 – Island Returns

November 3 – Coetzee, *Foe*

Week 13 – Ways of Ending

November 10 – Coetzee, *Foe*

Final Examination: 23 November, 1 pm