

Lecture: Introduction to Literature in English I: narrative fiction and drama (AS)

The aim of this course is to equip first year students with a conceptual framework and a set of tools for their understanding and appreciation of literature in English. Starting with the question ‘what is literature?’ we will begin the first part of this year-long course with narrative fiction. Telling stories is as vital to the human species as language, but what makes a story ‘literature’? Within this framework we will look at how stories are structured; how they are told and by whom; how they represent character, time and place. We will also discuss the work that particular stories do in the world today as well as in their historical context. We will take up these questions again when we go on to study drama in the second half of the semester. Taking *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare as our example we will examine defining features of drama, both as written text and performance.

Dr Rahel Orgis

Monday 10-11, Room R.E.48

**Literature and Writing Workshop (AS)**

In this first-year workshop, students will look more closely at the ideas, terminology and texts discussed in the lecture. They will also learn how to write academic essays on literature in English.

Section 1, Mon 14-16, B.1.49:

Rahel Orgis: rahel.orgis@unine.ch

Section 2, Tue 10-12, B.1.49:

Anne-Claire Michoux: anne-claire.michoux@unine.ch

Section 3, Thu 10-12, B.1.49:

Rahel Orgis: rahel.orgis@unine.ch

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Requirements:

- Regular attendance and participation. No more than two justified absences will be allowed (see Institute regulations).
- Reading of the assigned texts for each week’s lecture
- Two essays and drafts
- Assignments as announced in class
- Two in-class written exams based on the lecture and workshop

Required Texts:

Course Reader and New Cambridge Edition of Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* (ISBN 978-0521532501).

The courser reader will be sold in the sign-up session (room B.1.49, Tuesday, September 19, 10-12) for CHF 5. Students need to purchase the edition of Shakespeare’s play by end of October.

Evaluation:

The overall mark for the year-long course is the average of the four essay marks and four exam marks. To pass the year, an overall average of 4.0 is needed. If an essay is insufficient, it must be rewritten before the end of the respective semester. This applies to one essay per semester. If an essay is rewritten, it is the revised mark and not the original mark that counts. If the overall mark for the course is a fail, the student will be required to take a *rattrapage*. The *rattrapage* consists of an in-class essay and an oral exam of thirty minutes that cover the work done in the whole year. The essay and the oral exam carry equal weight (50%) in the assessment of the student’s performance.

Course Schedule:

Tuesday, 19 September: sign-up session, B. 1. 49, 10-12

25/26/28 September

Lecture: Defining literature and telling tales
Workshop: Introduction to the course.
Assigned texts: "Happy Endings," "Story of an Hour"

2/3/5 October

Lecture: Who's telling?
Workshop: Making an argument.
Assigned texts: "Eveline," "Désirée's Baby"

9/10/12 October

Lecture: Telling time
Workshop: Essay structure. Using quotations.
Assigned texts: "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber"

16/17/19 October

Lecture: Character in narrative fiction
Workshop: Essay structure: paragraphs
Assigned texts: "The Kitchen Child," "An Outpost of Progress"

23/24/26 October

Lecture: Taking in the reader
Workshop: Essay structure: introduction and title. Exam revision.
Assigned texts: "Storyteller," "The Black Cat," "The Yellow Wallpaper"
Assignment: Bring in thesis and outline.

30/31 October, 2 November

Lecture: Exam (10:00-11:00)
Workshop: Essay writing: using the style sheet and transitional devices.
Assignment: Bring in introduction and revised thesis and outline.

6/7/9 November (Reading Week)

Lecture: No lecture
Workshop: No class
Assignment: Write 1st essay.

13/14/16 November

Lecture: Stories, drama and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*
Workshop: Reading drama. Plagiarism.
Assigned texts: *Much Ado*, Act I
Assignment: Submit 1st essay in workshop.

20/21/23 November

Lecture: Shakespearean drama: forms of dramatic speech
Workshop: Reading drama, performing drama.
Assigned texts: *Much Ado*, Acts II, III

27/28/30 November

Lecture: Guest lecture on *Much Ado* by Prof. Indira Ghose (Unifr)
Workshop: Essay structure: conclusion.
Assigned texts: *Much Ado*, Acts IV, V

4/5/7 December

Lecture: Shakespearean drama: genre, characterisation and character
Workshop: Essay structure and thesis 2nd essay.
Assignment: Bring essay thesis and outline to workshop

11/12/14 December

Lecture: Shakespearean drama: on stage and in cinema
Workshop: Exam revision.
Assignment: Submit 2nd essay in workshop.

18/19/21 December

Lecture: Exam (10:00-11:00)
Workshop: Rewriting essays. Course evaluation.