

Prof. Emma Depledge  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 11h-12h & Tuesdays, 15h-16h

## An Introduction to Literature in English Autumn 2019

**\*NB Students will be organised into workshop groups during the first lecture on 23.09.19\***

### Lecture Course, Mondays, 10h-11h, Room R.E.48

This mandatory, year-long course will equip students with the skills of analysis and the knowledge required for study of literature in English at the BA level. Students will be introduced to approaches to literature, to key works of drama, prose, poetry and critical theory and to the vocabulary and terminology used to describe literary texts. They will also be invited to explore definitions of literature, the politics of the English literary canon, and the value of the humanities and social sciences in today's society.

In the autumn semester we will study William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, sample short stories, and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Students will be invited to ponder questions such as 'what is literature?' and 'why do we study literature?' Lectures and workshops will explore the history of the dramatic genre and the development of prose fiction. Students will be encouraged to explore key topics such as dramatic language, character types and constellations, narrative voices and techniques, and dramatic structure.

The second part of the year-long course (spring semester) will begin with poetry, which students often find hard but also deeply rewarding. Within the framing question — what is poetry? — we will explore how to analyse characteristic features, such as patterns of sounds, imagery and rhetorical figures, in order to appreciate how form works with content to produce meanings. In the second half of the spring semester students will be introduced to different critical and theoretical approaches to literature. Taking Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* as our focus we will discuss the interpretations generated by different theoretical and critical approaches.

### Literature and Writing Workshop

The lecture course must be taken in conjunction with a workshop. The accompanying workshops will provide students with an opportunity to study the aforementioned texts in greater depth. They will also receive detailed instruction on how to write academic essays on literature in English as one third of class time is devoted to learning how to do research and how to write about literature.

Honor Jackson: Group 1, Mondays 14-16, B.1.49  
Anne-Claire Michoux: Group 2, Tuesdays 10-12, B.1.49  
Anne-Claire Michoux: Group 3, Thursdays 10-12, B.1.49

Students must purchase the following editions for the autumn semester:

- William Shakespeare. *Hamlet*. Ed. by Barbara A. Mowat and Paul Werstine. Folger Shakespeare Library Edition. 2012, Paperback, 432 Pages. ISBN-13: 978-0-7434-7712-3.
- Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. Ed. by Vivien Jones. Penguin Classics. Rev Ed edition. 2003, Paperback, 448 pages. ISBN-13: 978-0141439518.

Start reading the texts as soon as possible. Both texts are available cheaply from Payot, Neuchâtel. Unine students are entitled to 20% discount during the rentrée. You are strongly encouraged to buy your course texts from Payot. You are strongly advised to read the introduction to the Folger edition of *Hamlet* before you read the play.