

COURSE SYLLABUS 2022-23

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE COURSE

Course:	“Landmarks in Contemporary English and American Literatures”		
Course code:	70482115	Plan:	Master’s Programme in English Studies: Professional Applications and Intercultural Communication
Academic Year:	2022-23	Undergraduate/Graduate:	Graduate
Degree Year:	1st	Type:	
Duration:	1st term		
Course Coordinator:	José Ramón Ibáñez Ibáñez		

TIME DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS

Credits:	3
Total time:	75

USE OF LEARNING PLATFORM (Teaching support, Multimodal, or Virtual):	Multimodal (Blended learning)
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TEACHERS

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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Content Justification

The goal of this course is to examine some of the most relevant aspects in contemporary British and American literature, starting from the 1960s to the present day. It looks at landmark novels aiming to enable students understand the complex literary and cultural changes undergone by these societies. The heterogeneous literary texts illustrate the cultural and social fragmentation of postmodernity, as well as social alienation and critique of the repressive state, as observed in *A Clockwork Orange* (1962), a dystopian novel by Anthony Burgess; the treatment of Vietnam War through the lens of Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969), an approach to science fiction which unveils the dialectics of war and its ensuing social consequences; or multiculturalism, pictured as an intergenerational culture shock in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* (2003), a Bengali-American writer, nowadays regarded as one of the best known examples of the hybridization process of America at the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century. Students will be requested to compare textual interpretations (through their readings and in-class discussion of the novels) and the use of the image offered by filmmakers such as Stanley Kubrick (*A Clockwork Orange*, 1971) or Mira Nair (*The Namesake*, 2006).

Courses Related in Study Plan

Contemporary literatures in the English language

Required Knowledge to Address the Course

Since the subject is taught exclusively in English and the narrative texts are in this language, students are expected to have a B2 level in English (minimum) so that they can confidently meet linguistic requirements. Furthermore, students are required to have a wide knowledge of twentieth-century English and American literature, of their cultural movements, and of the social stratification in these countries. The content of the subject complements and is integrated within the framework of knowledge acquired in "British and American Societies and Cultures" in Module 1 in the Master's Programme in English Studies.

Pre-Required Knowledge

Master's programme pre-requisites

COMPETENCES

Basic and General Competences

Basic competences

- Having and understanding knowledge
- Knowledge application

- Ability to express opinions

General competences

- Having and understanding knowledge
- Knowledge application
- Ability to express opinions

Key competences University of Almeria

- Second language knowledge
- Critical and self-critical abilities
- Ethical commitment
- Self-learning skills

Specific Competences

SC2: Grasping the different artistic and cultural expressions and their mutual interaction

SC4: Analysis of representative texts of linguistic and cultural plurality in British and American societies

SC6: Being able to act as a mediator so as to develop skills leading to the satisfactory outcome of problems and situations related to British and American societies.

SC7: Interpreting cultural texts from a postcolonial approach.

SC8: Planning, structuring and developing written texts and oral presentations starting from hypotheses based on the right use of an appropriate methodology with the aim to express efficiently discourses and ideas.

SC15: Showing a rigorous and exhaustive knowledge of the main trends, authors, works and literary movements in contemporary English and American literatures.

SC16: Ability to use discursive strategies allowing the possibility to successfully achieve reports and research papers in the field of literature in English.

SC17: Ability to analyse literary texts by means of standards established by the main literary criticism currents.

SC18: Use of information tools, bibliographic databases and glossaries enabling students to thoroughly explain the latest developments in contemporary literature.

SC42: Ability to establish the foundations with theoretical and practical knowledge of a clear exposition in the field of contemporary English literature.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, it is expected that the student should be able to understand the British and American cultural complexity of the last decades of the 20th century and the first decades of the 21st century by means of the analysis of these landmark works in the literatures of these countries. The student should be able to make judgments from a critical literary point of view and compare the vision exhibited by the narrative texts with the filmic versions of these same works viewed in the classroom. It is also expected that the student will be able to understand the complex multicultural amalgamation of Anglo-Saxon societies and the enormous impact of the narrative works of non-English speaking writers on the social and literary scene of these countries.

PLANNING

Contents

A. BLOCK I: BRITISH NOVEL SINCE THE 1960S

Unit 1. The Repressive Role of the State: *A Clockwork Orange* (1962) by Anthony Burgess.

B. BLOCK II: AMERICAN FICTION SINCE THE 1960S

Unit 2. The Dialectics of Horror: *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969) by Kurt Vonnegut. Unit 3. The American Novel from Philip Roth a Don DeLillo.

C. BLOCK III: AMERICAN MULTICULTURALISM AND ITS REFLECTION IN LITERATURE

Unit 4. Multicultural Societies. East Meets West in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* (2003)

Learning System and Methodology / Contingency Plan

Teaching Methodologies:

1. Lectures and active student participation
2. Information search
3. Text commentaries and class discussion
3. Tutorials
4. Online film watching

Contingency plan:

In the event of high health alert levels, the activities planned in the Teaching Groups will be taught online. The Working Groups will continue with face-to-face delivery according to the established planning. In the event of more restrictive measures agreed by the health authorities, working groups will also be conducted by videoconference.

Teaching Innovation Activities

Functional Diversity / Functional Disability

Those students with disabilities or special educational needs can get in contact with the Delegation of the Rector for the Functional Diversity (<http://www.ual.es/discapacidad>) to receive the appropriate guidance and advice in order to facilitate their instructional, learning and training processes. Likewise, these students may request the implementation of the necessary and suitable adaptations of content, methodology and evaluation that guarantee equal opportunities in their academic development. The processing of any personal data or aggregated information regarding these aforementioned students, in fully compliance with the GDPR, is strictly confidential. Faculties and academic staff lecturing the course referenced by this guide/document will be in charge of applying the recommended adaptations approved by the Delegation of the Rector for the Functional Diversity. This fact will be, therefore, notified to the School or Faculty as well as to the coordinator of the academic course.

COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Criteria and Assessment Tools / Contingency Plan

Class attendance is of paramount importance. It will be necessary that the students read the novels listed in the subject syllabus and gain insight of the material taught in both place-based sessions and online sessions. The criteria established for the evaluation of the subject are the following:

Option A – Continuous assessment

(1) End-of-term exam (50%). It will consist of a test based on text identifications, short questions and a text commentary. This test will be based on the material discussed in the teaching sessions, the critical apparatus as well as on the reading of the novels combined with the online watching of two films (two novels included in the syllabus). Students will need to get at least 50% of the end-of-the term exam to pass the course.

(2) Active participation in the classes (30%). Student intervention in class-based sessions and online sessions will be crucial. A grade will be established based on their reaction to texts (comments) and to summary questions (to be given at the beginning of each session), as well as their willingness to participate in course discussions.

(3) Delivery of a term paper based on students' response to novels and their film versions (20%). Students will privately watch two films, *A Clockwork Orange*, by Stanley Kubrik and *The Namesake* by Mira Nair, and submit a brief comparative essay of only one of the films and its corresponding novel.

Course final grade will consist in the addition of items 1, 2 and 3. In order to pass the course, students must get a grade equal to or higher than 50% in the final exam. That percentage will be added to students' active participation (point 2) and the term paper (point 3). Overall, student final grade should be equal to or higher than 50%.

These criteria will remain in force for those students who fail end-of-semester exam. (2) and (3) percentages will be maintained, but students will have to redo end-of-semester exam (1) in order to pass the course.

Option B– Final evaluation system

(1) End-of-term exam (80%). It will consist of a test based on text identifications, short questions and a text commentary. This test will be based on the material discussed in the teaching sessions, the critical apparatus as well as on the reading of the novels combined with the online watching of two films (two novels included in the syllabus). Students will need to get at least 50% of the end-of-the term exam to pass the course.

(2) Delivery of a term paper based on students' response to novels and their film versions (20%). Students will privately watch two films, *A Clockwork Orange*, by Stanley Kubrik and *The Namesake* by Mira Nair, and submit a brief comparative essay of only one of the films and its corresponding novel.

Course final grade will consist in the addition of items 1 and 2. In order to pass the course, students must get a grade equal to or higher than 50% in the final exam. That percentage will be added to students' term paper (point 2). Overall, student final grade should be equal to or higher than 50%.

These criteria will remain in force for those students who fail end-of-semester exam. Item (2) percentage will be maintained, but students will have to redo end-of-semester exam (1) in order to pass the course.

Academic integrity. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1.4.4 of the "Regulations for the evaluation of student learning at the University of Almeria", the presentation of another individual's work as one's own (plagiarism), or seeking any type of academic advantage through teaching will be severely penalized. The detection of deliberate plagiarism will result in the student receiving a failing grade (*suspense*) in their term paper or end-of-semester exam.

Contingency plan:

The contingency plan will be maintained. In those cases in which the health authorities advise and/or agree that the assessment tests shall not be taken in person during the ordinary and/or extraordinary sessions, the tests indicated shall be taken online.

Follow-Up Mechanisms

- Office hours
- Blackboard Learn platform access
- Participation in short questions

COURSE MATERIALS

Recommended Course Materials

Basic

Beidler, Philip D. *American Literature and the Experiences of Vietnam*. University of Georgia Press. 2007.

Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Modern American Novel*. Penguin. 1994.

Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*. Penguin Modern Classics. 2000.

Childs, Peter. *Contemporary Novelists. British Fiction since 1970*. Palgrave Macmillan. 2005.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*. Mariner Books. 1999. Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Namesake*. Mariner Books. 2004.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Dial Press Trade. 1999.

Waugh, Patricia. *Harvest of the Sixties. English Literature and Its Background (1960-1990)*. Oxford University Press. 1995.

Complementary

Bradbury, Malcolm. *The Modern British Novel (1878-2001)*. Penguin Books Ltd. 2a. 2001.

Hungerford, Amy. *Postmodern Belief: American Literature and Religion since 1960*. Princeton University Press. 2010.

Elliot, Emory. *Historia de la literatura norteamericana*. Cátedra. 2007.

Morrison, Jago. *Contemporary Fiction*. Routledge. 1a. 2003.

Randall Stevenson. *The British Novel since the Thirties. An Introduction*. Batsford. 1986.

Other materials

Couse Materials Available in UAL's library

To browse existing bibliography and references at UAL Library System, please click on the following link:

https://www.ual.es/bibliografia_recomendada70482115

WEBSITES

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