

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of English  
with effect from Semester A 2017/2018**

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**Part I Course Overview**

<b>Course Title:</b>	Introduction to English Literary and Cultural Studies
<b>Course Code:</b>	EN2709
<b>Course Duration:</b>	1 Semester
<b>Credit Units:</b>	3 credits
<b>Level:</b>	B2
<b>Proposed Area:</b> <i>(for GE courses only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Humanities <input type="checkbox"/> Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Technology
<b>Medium of Instruction:</b>	English
<b>Medium of Assessment:</b>	English
<b>Prerequisites:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
<b>Precursors:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
<b>Equivalent Courses:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
<b>Exclusive Courses:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

The course aims to develop the students' knowledge of English literary and cultural studies through a process of discovery of key texts and a discussion of their contexts. It will enhance students' knowledge of the basic elements of literary and cultural studies and develop their ability to analyze and interpret literary and cultural production (including fiction, poetry, drama, life writing, film and the new media), through discussions of form, style, innovations on traditional creative paradigms and themes. Students will generate critical and creative responses to these texts, through the writing of essays and creative pieces.

### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	<b>Identify</b> key writers and texts and <b>examine</b> the social and political issues that contribute to the emergence of new literary forms.		X	X	
2.	<b>Discuss</b> the characteristics of major writers and texts and understand the interdisciplinary possibilities of creative texts.		X	X	
3.	<b>Analyse</b> the aesthetic and creative aspects of literature and culture by exploring themes and styles of diverse texts.		X	X	X
4.	<b>Apply</b> critical reading, thinking, and writing skills in interpreting literary and cultural texts.		X	X	X

100%

\* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

*Attitude*

A1: *Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.*

A2: *Ability*

*Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.*

A3: *Accomplishments*

*Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.*

### 3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
Reading analysis and discussion	Using relevant concepts and terms, students will analyse and reflect upon an array of texts in small group and whole-class settings.	X	X	X	X			
Peer-review meetings and discussion	In small peer-review groups, students will read and respond to one another's writing as a way to reflect	X	X	X	X			

	upon and develop various stages of the writing process.							
In class writing and creative workshops	Students will document and reflect upon learning through writing activities and creative workshop projects.	X	X	X	X			

#### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4			
Continuous Assessment: 100%							
1. Critical Essays	X	X	X	X		40%	Students will be asked to reflect and analyse particular issues germane to the novel. Students may be given the option to write a creative response for one of these assignments.
2. Group Presentation	X	X	X	X		20%	Students will be required to make a group presentation on a text. In planning their presentation, students will decide how they may interpret the text and convey their message to the audience. This activity requires both critical reading and thinking skills, the ability to connect diverse points of view, and interpretative abilities.
3. Quizzes	X			X		20%	Students will take quizzes to judge their reading comprehension and ability to reflect on issues discussed in class.
4. Participation and Completion of in class Class Writing Activities	X	X	X	X		20%	Students are expected to contribute to in-class discussions/workshops and to demonstrate their learning in reading relevant materials related to the texts. Short in-class writing assignments will also be given.
Examination: _____% (duration: _____, if applicable)							
* The weightings should add up to 100%.						100%	

## 5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Critical Essays	Organization and Cohesion	The organization between sentences, paragraphs, and ideas is effective and smooth. The writing is cohesive and logically organized.	Organization supports thesis. Transitions between ideas are clear and functional. There is a sense of progression as the argument unfolds.	Elements of Marginal and Good	Some signs of logical organization. May have abrupt or illogical shifts and ineffective flow of ideas. Generally very choppy.	Ideas are not clearly contextualized.  Unclear organization.
	Language and Style	Language is used effectively and with a high level of precision.	Almost all sentences are error free. There is a sense of precision in word choice. The writer successfully uses complex sentence structures to convey ideas.	Some minor mistakes remain but these do not confuse the reader or impede meaning. The writer attempts to use complex grammatical patterns to convey ideas.	Many sentences have mistakes, which causes strain for the reader. The meaning is sometimes distorted or unclear.	There are several mistakes in grammar and word choice, often impeding communication and causing severe strain for the reader.
	Thesis / Argument	The essay contains well thought-out ideas that are clearly expressed, original, and supported.	Thesis and purpose are clear and appropriate for the writing task. There is a sense of originality in the purpose.	Elements of Marginal and Good	Thesis and argument are vague or only loosely related to the writing task.	Reader cannot determine thesis & purpose OR thesis has no relation to the writing task
	Engagement with the relevant texts	Shows a deep understanding of the relevant texts.  Sophisticated reading/interpretative skills apparent.	The discussion of the primary texts is sufficiently detailed. There is a sense of the writer interpreting the text.	Elements of Marginal and Good	Some discussion of the relevant texts, but mostly in general and broad terms. Lacks details.	Very little if any engagement with the primary texts
2. Group Presentation	Depth of understanding	Excellent and thorough understanding. In-depth analysis & thorough discussion. Shows insightful and subtle ideas. Presentation	Very good understanding. Very good analysis and discussion. Shows some insightful and subtle ideas.	Fair understanding. Adequate analysis and discussion. Ideas may be common but mostly with support.	Rather limited understanding and some misinterpretation. Rather limited view points presented. Discussion is not always	Poor understanding of the text and a lot of misinterpretation. Limited view points presented. Ideas are mostly without

		demonstrates 'reading for exploration'.	View points are well supported.		logical or with support.	support.
	Use of language and knowledge of relevant literary terms	All speakers are competent and demonstrate highly accurate and sophisticated use of language (e.g. style, idiomatic use of language, collocation). Highly appropriate use of literary terms. Ideas are coherent and very easy to follow.	Most speakers are competent and demonstrate accurate use of language. Appropriate use of literary terms. Ideas are easy to follow.	Adequate and appropriate use of literary terms, but only one or two speakers demonstrate good and accurate language use. Ideas are generally easy to follow.	Rather limited or inappropriate use of literary terms. Most speakers do not demonstrate accurate language use. Ideas are often not easy to follow.	Poor accuracy and lack of or frequent misuse of literary terms. Ideas are difficult to follow.
	Team Work	Dynamic team work. All members show great support to one another. Almost seamless transition between speakers/parts	Good team effort. Members work closely together to put all parts together.	Satisfactory team effort. Most members show good support for one another. Parts are generally well connected.	Limited team effort shown. Some members may not participate actively. Some parts are not well connected.	An overall of lack of support for members and organization or transition is not evident.
	Creativity and Originality	Shows very high level of creativity and originality in the presentation while being faithful to the text. A pleasure to watch.	Shows high level of creativity and originality in the presentation while being faithful to the text.	Not much creativity and originality in the presentation. Some ideas may not be related to the text at times	The presentation lacks creativity and originality. A lot of ideas are not related to the text.	The presentation is very flat. Most ideas are not related or relevant to the text.
3. Quizzes	Comprehension of course materials	Demonstrates a full understanding of course materials including details and nuances in meaning.	Demonstrates a good understanding of course materials	Demonstrates a partial understanding of course materials	Demonstrates a limited understanding of course materials	Fails to demonstrate an understanding of course materials
4. Participation	Participation in in-class activities (such as group discussion and writing tasks)	Makes significant contribution to in-class discussion and completes writing tasks satisfactorily.	Makes occasional contribution to in-class group discussion and completes the writing tasks satisfactorily.	Seldom makes contribution to in-class group discussion; completes most of the in-class writing tasks	Little evidence of participation in class; completes very few in-class writing tasks	Fails to sufficiently participate in in-class activities (including discussion and writing)

**Part III Other Information** (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

**1. Keyword Syllabus**

The novel, English literature, identity, culture

**2. Reading List**

**2.1 Compulsory Readings**

*(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)*

1.	Readings will be selected and made available by the instructor. Possible titles include the following:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>The Remains of the Day</i>. Kazuo Ishiguro</li><li>2. <i>Waiting</i>. Ha Jin</li><li>3. <i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i>. Muriel Barbery</li><li>4. <i>Saturday</i>. Ian McEwan</li><li>5. <i>The Kite Runner</i>. Khaled Hosseini</li><li>6. <i>Digging to China</i>. Anne Tyler</li><li>7. <i>The Space Between Us</i>. Thrity Umrigar</li><li>8. <i>Unless</i>. Carol Shields</li></ol>
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**2.2 Additional Readings**

*(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)*

1.	Booth, A., Hunter, J. P., & Mays, K. J. (1973). <i>The Norton introduction to literature</i> . (Shorter 9 <sup>th</sup> ed.). W. W. Norton: New York, London
2.	Kennedy, X. J., & Gioia, D. (1995). <i>Literature: An introduction to fiction, poetry, and drama</i> . (6 <sup>th</sup> ed.). Harper Collins: N.Y.
3.	Meyer, M. (1997). <i>The compact Bedford introduction to literature</i> . (4 <sup>th</sup> ed.). Bedford: N.Y.