

Suggested Preparation for First Year English Literature and Linguistics

Please note this document only contains information for the English modules you'll take in semester 1. The School of Languages, Linguistics and Film may be in touch with any other preparation if it's needed.

SUGGESTED PREPARATION

ESH102 – Reading, Theory and Interpretation

Students should prepare in advance by reading Daniel Defoe *Robinson Crusoe*. Additional preparation might include advance reading of Mary Shelley *Frankenstein (revised edition 1831)* and Tory Young *Studying English Literature*.

FULL READING LISTS & MODULE INFORMATION

ESH102 Reading, Theory and Interpretation: Approaches to the Study of English Literature

Module Description

“Reading, Theory and Interpretation” is a foundational module that will introduce you to some of the central problems involved in the interpretation of literature. At the same time, the module will provide you with an introduction to some of the most influential and challenging theories of interpretation itself. Throughout the history of literature, there have arisen various competing interpretations of literary texts and, with that, the need to adjudicate between rival interpretations from interdisciplinary backgrounds, including Marxism, gender studies, postcolonial theory, and psychoanalysis.

“Theory” has therefore emerged as a means of justifying particular interpretations over and against others. This module will demonstrate the connections between different theoretical perspectives within English Literature, and aims to help you to understand why these opposing “readings”, theoretical perspectives, and interpretations occur, and how to analyse some of the more ambitious and compelling theories through which these readings have been generated. The module will introduce you to a range of British and World Literature written in English, and will consider the role of English Literature within its cultural and global contexts.

Preparation

Summer reading:

Students may wish to prepare in advance by reading Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. Additional preparation might include advance reading of Mary Shelley *Frankenstein (revised edition 1831)*.

Approximate Costs

Primary texts costing up to £40 if purchased new.

Note that these costs can often be reduced by purchasing items second-hand or borrowing them from the Library.

Module Bibliography

The literature of, and about, literary theory and our chosen topics and authors is immense. The following list is necessarily selective and meant to be simply a starting point. On your own: browse library catalogues and shelves, use databases, and follow up references within our listed sources (and the set texts) to find more.

Introductory/General

Chris Baldick, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary to Literary Terms* (2001)

Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory* (4th ed. 2009) [An unusual book, divided into 34 short, thematically defined chapters, each of which combines literary texts with theory. It gives a strong sense of the appeal of e.g. Barthes, Derrida, and Freud, though is perhaps less interested in other thinkers.]

Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (1999)

Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction* (1983)

John Lechte, *Fifty key Contemporary Thinkers* (1994) [Short, lucid entries on Bakhtin, Barthes, Derrida, Freud, and others.]

Daniel Defoe

Harold Bloom (ed.), *Robinson Crusoe* [in the *Major Literary Characters* series] (1996)

Leo Damrosch, *God's Plots and Man's Stories* (1985)

Leonard J Davis, *Factual Fictions: The Origins of the English Novel* (1983)

Frank Ellis (ed.), *Twentieth-century Interpretations of 'Robinson Crusoe'* (1969)

Maximillian E Novak, *Realism, Myth and History in Defoe's Fiction* (1983)

John Richetti, *Defoe's Narrative: Situations and Structures* (1975)

The Novel/Narrative

Porter H. Abbott, *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative* (2002)

Nancy Armstrong, *How Novels Think: The Limits of Individualism* (2005)

A. P. Brink, *The Novel: Language and Narrative from Cervantes to Calvino* (1998)

M. A. Doody, *The True Story of the Novel* (1998)

Paul Cobley, *Narrative* (2001)

Michael McKeon, *The Origins of the English Novel, 1600-1740* (1987)

W. J. T. Mitchell, *On Narrative* (1981)

Russian Formalism

Tony Bennett, *Formalism and Marxism* (1979)

Victor Erlich, *Russian Formalism* (1981)

John Frow, *Marxism and Literary History* (1986)
Fredric Jameson, *The Prison-House of Language: A Critical Account of Structuralism and Russian Formalism* (1972)
Ann Jefferson and David Robey (eds), *Modern Literary Theory: A Comparative Introduction* (1986), ch. 1
Lee Lemon and Marion Reis (eds), *Russian Formalist Criticism: Four Essays* (1965)
Peter Steiner, *Russian Formalism: A Metapoetics* (1984)

Ecocriticism

Bate, Jonathan. *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and the Environmental Tradition*. London: Routledge, 1991.
Bate, Jonathan. *The Song of the Earth*. London: Picador, 2011.
Barnhill Landis, David. 'Introduction'. *At Home on the Earth: Becoming Native to Our Place: A Multicultural Anthology*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.
Branch, Michael P., and Scott Slovic, eds. *The ISLE Reader: Ecocriticism, 1993-2003*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2003.
Buell, Laurence. *The Environmental Imagination*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1985.
Buell, Laurence. *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and the Literary Imagination*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.
Buell, Laurence. *Writing for an Endangered World: Literature, Culture and Environment in the U.S. and Beyond*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2003.
Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. London: Penguin, 2000 [1962].
Coupe, Laurence. *The Green Studies Reader: From Romanticism to Ecocriticism*. London: Routledge, 2000.
Gerrard, Greg. *Ecocriticism (The New Critical Idiom)*. London: Routledge, 2012.
Glotfelty, Cheryll, and Harold Fromm., eds. *The Ecocritical Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1996.
Kerridge, Richard, and Neil Sammells, eds. *Writing the Environment: Ecocriticism & Literature*. London: Zed Books, 1998.
Kroeber, Karl. *Ecological Literary Criticism: Romantic Imagining and the Biology of the Mind*. Columbia: Columbia University Press, 1994.
McCracken, David. *Wordsworth and the Lake District*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.
Murthy, Patrick. *Further Afield in the Study of Nature-Oriented Literature*. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 2000.
Oelschlaeger, Max. *The Idea of the Wilderness: From Prehistory to the Age of Ecology*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1991.
Oerlemans, Onno. *Romanticism and the Materiality of Nature*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002.
Rosendale, Steven, ed. *The Greening of Literary Scholarship: Literature, Theory and the Environment*. Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 2002.
Slovic, Scott. *Going Away to Think: Engagement, Retreat, and Ecocritical Responsibility*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2008.
Worster, Donald. *Nature's Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.

Karl Marx

- Marshall Berman, *All that is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity* (1982)
[includes a reading of *The Communist Manifesto*]
Nancy S. Love, *Marx, Nietzsche and Modernity* (1986)
Rius, *Marx for Beginners* (2003)
Francis Wheen, *Karl Marx* (1999)

Marx and literary studies

- Simon Dentith, *Bakhtinian Thought: An Introductory Reader* (1995)
Terry Eagleton, *Marxism and Literary Theory* (1976)
Terry Eagleton and Drew Milne (ed.), *Marxist Literary Theory: A Reader* (1996)
Michael Holquist, *Dialogism: Bakhtin and his World* (1991)
Fredric Jameson, *Marxism and Form* (1971)
Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature* (1977)

Mary Shelley

- Chris Baldick, *In Frankenstein's Shadow: Myth, Monstrosity, and Nineteenth-century Writing* (1987)
Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-century Imagination* (1979).
George Levine and U. C. Knoepfelmacher (eds.), *The Endurance of Frankenstein: Essays on Mary Shelley's Novel* (1982)
Ellen Moers, *Literary Women* (1976).
Mary J. Poovey, *The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer: Ideology as Style in the Works of Mary Woolstonecraft, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen* (1984)
Esher Schor, *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Shelley* (2003)

Gender and Queer Theory

- Rachel Alsop et. al., *Theorizing Gender* (2002) [esp. the chapter on the "Social Construction of Gender"]
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (1990; 2006)
Jennifer Coates (ed.), *Language and Gender: A Reader* (1998)
Clare Colebrook, *Gender* (2003)
Toril Moi, *Sexual/Textual Politics* (1990)
Pam Morris, *Literature and Feminism* (1993)
Purvis, Tony. 'Sexualities'. *Literary Theory and Criticism: An Oxford Guide*. Ed. Patricia Waugh. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. 427-450.
Rich, Adrienne. 'Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence'. *Signs* 5.4 (Summer 1980): 631-660.
Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. *Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.
Sinfield, Alan. *Cultural Politics – Queer Reading*. Oxon: Routledge, 2005.

Stimpson, Catharine R and Herdt, Gilbert. *Critical Terms for the Study of Gender*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014.

Wittig, Monique. *The Straight Mind*. Boston: Beacon Press, Ltd, 1991.

Virginia Woolf

Michèle Barrett, *Virginia Woolf: Women and Writing* (1992)

Rachel Bowlby, *Feminist Destinations* (1997)

Jane Goldman, *The Cambridge Introduction to Virginia Woolf* (2000)

Jane Marcus, *Virginia Woolf and the Languages of Patriarchy* (1987)

Jane Marcus (ed.), *Virginia Woolf: A Feminist Slant* (1983)

Toril Moi, *Sexual/Textual Politics* (1985) [in direct opposition to Showalter (see below), Moi broadly endorses Woolf's views on e.g/ gender and writing.]

Suzanne Raitt, *Vita and Virginia* (1993)

Elaine Showalter, *A Literature of their Own: British Women Novelists from Bronte to Lessing* (1987) [takes issue with Woolf's theoretical position]

Michael Whitworth, *Virginia Woolf* (2005)

Joseph Conrad

Daniel Bivona, *British Imperial Literature, 1870-1940: Writing and the Administration of Empire* (1998)

Patrick Brantlinger, *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism, 1830-1914* (1988)

Jeremy Hawthorn, *Joseph Conrad: Narrative Technique and Ideological Commitment* (1990)

Jeffrey Meyers, *Fiction and the Colonial Experience* (1973)

Patrick Parrinder, "Heart of Darkness: Geography as Apocalypse?" in *Fin de Siècle/Fin du Globe: Fears and Fantasies of the Late Nineteenth Century*, ed. John Stoke (1992)

Ian Watt, *Conrad in the Nineteenth Century* (1980)

Cedric Watts, *Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness': A Critical and Contextual Discussion* (1977)

Cedric Watts, *The Deceptive Text: An Introduction to Covert Plots* (1984)

Andrea White, *Joseph Conrad and the Adventure Tradition: Constructing and Deconstructing the Imperial Subject* (1993)

Post-colonialism

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-colonial Literatures* (1989; 2002)

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (eds.), *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader* (1995)

Neil Lazarus (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies* (2004)

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (1998; 2005)

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman (eds), *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: A Reader* (1994)

Edward Said

Bill Ashcroft and Pal Ahluwalia, *Edward Said* (2000)

Paul A Bové (ed.), *Edward Said and the Work of the Critic: Speaking Truth to Power* (2000)

Maya Jasanoff, "Before and After Said", *London Review of Books*, 8 June 2006

Bart Moore-Gilbert, *Postcolonial Theory: Contexts, Practices, Politics* (1997)
Benita Parry, Keith Ansell-Pearson and Judith Squires, eds, *Cultural Readings of Imperialism: Edward Said and the gravity of history* (1997)
Dennis Porter, "Orientalism and its Problems," in *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory*, ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman (1994)
Edward W. Said, *Power, politics and culture: Interviews with Edward W. Said* (2004)
Michael Sprinker, *Edward Said: A Critical Reader* (1992)

Chinua Achebe

Derek Attridge, *J.M. Coetzee and the Ethics of Reading: Literature in the Event* (2005)
Biodun Jeyifo, "Okonkwo and his Mother: *Things Fall Apart* and Issues of Gender in the Constitution of African Postcolonial Discourse," *Callahoo* 16 (1993), 847-58.
S. A. Khayyoom, *Chinua Achebe : a Study of his Novels* (1999).
Bart Moore-Gilbert, *Postcolonial Theory* (1997)
David Punter, *Postcolonial Imaginings: Fictions of a New World Order* (2000)
Robert M. Wren, *Achebe's World: The Historical and Cultural Context of the Novels* (1980)

Sigmund Freud's own writings on literature are collected in volume 14 of the *Penguin Freud Library*, entitled *Art and Literature*.

Josh Cohen, *How to Read Freud* (2005)
Peter Gay, *Reading Freud* (1990)
Sarah Kofman, *The Childhood of Art: An Interpretation of Freud's Aesthetics* (1988)
Sarah Kofman, *Freud and Fiction* (1991)
Jean Laplanche and Jean-Bertrand Pontallis, *The Language of Psychoanalysis* (1988)
Juliet Mitchell, *Psychoanalysis and Feminism* (1974)
Philip Rieff, *Freud: The Mind of a Moralizer* (1979)

Freud and literary studies

As well as Freud himself, much recent psychoanalytic literary theory draws on **Jacques Lacan** (and others following/revising Freud). See, for instance:

Anthony Easthope, *The Unconscious* (1999)
Maud Ellmann (ed.), *Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism* (1994)
Shoshana Felman, *Literature and Psychoanalysis: The Question of Reading: Otherwise* (1982)
Elizabeth Wright (ed.), *Psychoanalytic Criticism: A Reappraisal*, 2nd ed. (1998)

J. M. Coetzee

Derek Attridge, *J. M. Coetzee and the Ethics of Reading* (2004)
David Attwell, *J. M. Coetzee: South Africa and the Politics of Writing* (1993)
Dominic Head, *J.M. Coetzee* (1997)
Graham Huggan and Stephen Watson (ed.) *Critical Perspectives on J. M. Coetzee* (1996)
Michael Marais, "Interpretative Authoritarianism: Reading/Colonizing Coetzee's *Foe*." *English in Africa* 16:1 (1989), 9-16.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Theory in the Margin: Coetzee's *Foe* Reading Defoe's *Crusoe/Roxana*", in *Consequences of Theory* ed. Jonathan Arac and Barbara Johnson (1991) 154-80.

Jacques Derrida

Jonathan Culler, *On Deconstruction: Theory and Criticism After Structuralism* (1983)
Christopher Norris, *Deconstruction: Theory and Practice*, 3rd ed. (2002)
Penelope Deutscher, *How to Read Derrida* (2005)

Roland Barthes

Jonathan Culler, *Barthes* (1983)
Michael Moriarty, *Roland Barthes* (1991)
John Sturrock, "Roland Barthes" in *Structuralism and Since*, ed. Sturrock (1979)

ESH125 English in Practice

Module Description

English in Practice supports students in the transition to university-level study through a series of induction events, masterclasses, and workshops. The module introduces you to information and practices central to negotiating the first year (and beyond) successfully, including, for example: who's who; navigating QMUL's online learning environment; accessing support; time management; digital resources and research; reading critically; writing, editing, referencing and good academic practice, and making the most of feedback. The module will make use of 'real world' examples by drawing on issues, skills and assessments from other modules at Level 4. In different years and according to need, the balance between large-group lecture-style sessions and smaller-group workshops may vary, but the total number of teaching hours will remain the same.

Module Bibliography

Terry Eagleton, *How to Read Literature*, pp.167-174

Selected user reviews from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Molly Worthen, 'Lecture Me. Really.' *New York Times* 18th October 2015

Tory Young, 'Plagiarism', *Studying English Literature: A Practical Guide*, pp.36-44

Nicholas Royle and Andrew Bennett, 'Essays', *This Thing Called Literature: Reading, Writing, Thinking* (London: Routledge, 2015)

John Peck and Martin Coyle, 'The Well-Crafted Sentence' and 'Twenty to Remember', *The Student's Guide to Writing: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling* 2nd edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2012)

Helen Sword, 'A Guide to the Style Guides', *Stylish Academic Writing*, (Harvard University Press, 2012). pp.26-27

Virginia Woolf, 'How Should One Read a Book?', *The Common Reader II* (London: The Hogarth press, 1925)

J. Hillis Miller, 'How to Read Literature', *On Literature*, pp.115-123.

David Mikics, 'In Praise of (Offline) Slow Reading', the *New York Times*, January 3rd 2014

Robert Eaglestone, 'Critical Attitudes', *Doing English*, pp.37-44

Helen Vendler, '122', *Emily Dickinson: Selected Poems and Commentaries*, pp.35-37

Theodor Adorno, 'Memento', *Minima Moralia: Reflections from Damaged Life* translated by E.F.N. Jephcott (London: Verso, 2006), pp.51-53.

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, 'Her Point Is': The Art of Summarising, in *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* (London: Norton, 2010), pp.30-42

Judith Woolf, 'Research', *Writing about Literature*, pp.22-33

Lyndsey Stonebridge, 'How books help us to be better political citizens', the *New Statesman* (August 2015)

Derek Attridge, 'Introductory', *The Singularity of Literature* (London: Routledge, 2004), pp.3-15