ENGL3101 - Modern World Literature
Course Outline

Lecturer: Dr Shane Holtaas
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Consultations by appointment

Course Co-ordinator: Hugh Craig
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Ph: 49215212
Fax: 49216933
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Consultation hours: Monday 10-12

Semester Semester 2 - 2008
Unit Weighting 10
Teaching Methods Seminar

Brief Course Description
The course introduces students to a number of modern texts of international significance, thus familiarising them with major aspects of current world literature. Texts written by foreign-language authors are examined in English translation. Internal mode of delivery.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks
Seminar combines lecture material and group discussion.
Learning Materials/Texts

Rainer Maria Rilke, selected poems (in Reader)
Franz Kafka, “Before the Law” (in Reader)
Franz Kafka, “In the Penal Colony” (in Reader)
Franz Kafka, “A Hunger Artist” (in Reader)
Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot (in Reader)
Samuel Beckett, Texts for Nothing (in Reader)
Clarice Lispector, The Hour of the Star (Manchester: Carcanet Press, 1992)
Kenzoburo Ōe, The Silent Cry (London: Serpent’s Tail, 1998)
Aimée Césaire, selected poems (in Reader)
Naguib Mahfouz, “Zaabalawi” (in Reader)
Naguib Mahfouz, “The Conjuror Made Off With the Dish” (in Reader)

Course Objectives

1. Comprehension of texts in English and in English translation.
2. Critical analysis of texts.
3. Understanding of literary, historical, social and cultural movements associated with these texts.
4. Language development through discussion and writing about texts and theories related to them.
5. Independent research using secondary literature related to the prescribed texts.

Course Content

The course aims to provide an insight into major modern writers. Students will
* Engage in close reading of prose, verse and dramatic texts.
* Engage in practical criticism of literary technique
* Express opinions about and give personal responses to texts

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>2 x Essays worth 50% each (2000 words)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Two absences are allowable in the case of illness or other emergencies, and two more absences may be recovered by completing extra work on each of the seminars missed, but further absences will be regarded as failure to complete the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>Students must submit all assessment items in order to complete the course.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge

20 units of English at 1000 level

Callaghan Campus Timetable

ENGL3101
MODERN WORLD LITERATURE
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2008
Seminar Thursday 16:00 - 18:00 [MC132]
Or Friday 11:00 - 13:00 [W308]
Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term, are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html, for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.
Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The census dates below are the last dates to withdraw without academic penalty. For onshore students, withdrawal on or before the census date means no financial penalty.

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**

- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**

- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**

- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty website**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Contact details**

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**

Phone: 02 4921 5000  Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Ourimbah**

Phone: 02 4348 4030  Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au
The Dean of Students  
Resolution Precinct  
Phone: 02 4921 5806  Fax: 02 4921 7151  
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)  
Phone: 02 4348 4123  Fax: 02 4348 4145  
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:  

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards  

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

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End of CTS Entry  
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Essential Criteria in Assessment

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS. Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000648.html

(1) Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Two absences are allowable in the case of illness or other emergencies, and two more absences may be recovered by completing extra work on each of the seminars missed, but further absences will be regarded as failure to complete the course. A roll will be taken at each class.

(2) Students must submit all assessment items in order to complete the course.

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.
**Studentmail and Blackboard:** Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

**Academic Integrity**

Integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge and truth are the bases of all academic endeavours in teaching, learning and research. To preserve the quality of learning, both for the individual and for others enrolled, the University imposes severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity.

There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

(a) Academic Fraud, in which a false representation is made to gain an unjust advantage by, for example,

- the falsification of data
- reusing one’s own work that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission)
- misconduct in Examinations

(b) Plagiarism, which is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Plagiarism includes

- copying, paraphrasing, or using someone else’s ideas without appropriate acknowledgement
- failure to identify direct quotation through the use of quotation marks
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Please note that aiding another student to plagiarise (e.g. by lending assignments to other students) is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)
ESSAY QUESTIONS

Essay One
2,000 words
Due September 3, at 5 pm

Note: Do not write more than once at length on any one author in your essays.

1. Compare the presentation of the writer or artist in the texts of two of: Rilke, Kafka, or Beckett.
2. Discuss the presentation of the 'religious' in two authors from any part of the course.
3. Discuss the use of mythic images and themes in the texts of two of: Rilke, Kafka, or Beckett.
4. Discuss the problem of interpretation in relation to the texts of two of: Rilke, Kafka, or Beckett.
5. Modernity has been described as causing the “gradual alienation of the individual from society.” Discuss the ways that individual alienation is presented in two authors from any part of the course.
6. Compare the use of humour or “strangeness” in the texts of two of: Rilke, Kafka, or Beckett.
7. Discuss the tension between “act” and “understanding” as presented in two authors from any part of the course.

Essay Two
2,000 words
Due November 12, at 5 pm

Note: Do not write more than once at length on any one author in your essays.

1. Compare the presentations of gender in the texts of two authors from any part of the course.
2. Discuss the presentation—and significance—of violence in the texts of two authors from any part of the course.
3. Discuss the relationship between the presentation of cultural identity and the dynamics of modernity in the texts of two authors from any part of the course.
4. Compare the relationship between the past and the present in the texts of two authors from any part of the course.
5. “Stories are told by storytellers.” Discuss the construction of the narrator (and how this affects the narrative) in the text of two authors from any part of the course.
6. Many of the texts we have looked at in the course could be described as “difficult.” Discuss the question of difficulty in relation to the texts of two authors from any part of the course.
7. Discuss the presentation of dreams or the ‘uncanny’ in the texts of two of: Beckett, Lispector, Oe, Cesaire, or Mahfouz.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-Jul</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Jul</td>
<td>Rilke, selected poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Aug</td>
<td>Rilke, selected poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-Aug</td>
<td>Franz Kafka, “Before the Law”, &quot;In the Penal Colony&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-Aug</td>
<td>Franz Kafka, “A Hunger Artist”</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-Aug</td>
<td>Samuel Beckett, <em>Waiting for Godot</em></td>
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<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>Samuel Beckett, <em>Texts for Nothing</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Sep</td>
<td>Clarice Lispector, <em>The Hour of the Star</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>Kenzaburo Oe, <em>The Silent Cry</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>Aimée Césaire, selected poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>SEMESTER BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Oct</td>
<td>SEMESTER BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-Oct</td>
<td>Aimée Césaire, selected poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Oct</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Nov</td>
<td>NO SEMINAR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3-Sep First essay due, 5 pm
12-Nov Second essay due, 5 pm