

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	READING TEXTS: LITERARY THEORY		
MODULE CODE	EN1215 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

- To enable students to start to think critically about the definitions of 'literature' and 'text'.
- To establish the crucial role played by historical context in the analysis of literature.
- To begin to engage with some central theoretical concepts, such as class, gender, and race, in the analysis of the literary text.
- To develop sophisticated reading techniques by showing the possibilities for historically-informed analyses and paying close attention to the detail of the text.
- Develop skills in writing and oral communication.
- Begin to develop skills in independent study.

MODULE CONTENT

This module will introduce you to ideas concerning the identity and status of texts and textuality, and you will explore some key concepts for the analysis of literary texts. The development of close reading skills will be encouraged alongside an emphasis on the importance of interpretations sensitive to the role of context in all its forms. Texts will be examined using strategies informed by such concepts as class, gender, the unconscious and race to provide a useful introduction to the field of literary theory.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	Prove that they have a sound grasp of what a text is and the ways in which it can be defined.
2.	Perform a persuasive close reading of any given text or part of a text.
3.	Work individually and in groups to investigate the nature of any given literary text.
4.	Display the appropriate use of academic discourse in the accomplishment of written assignments and seminar discussions.
5.	Exhibit a sensitive understanding of the relevance of issues such as history, class, gender and race to the study of literature.
6.	Understand how to develop independent study techniques.

TEACHING METHODS

This module is delivered through lectures and seminars, incorporating the occasional showing of films. Lectures will provide you with an introduction to critical and theoretical perspectives to be encountered at levels five and six and which will be a sound preparation for EN2904: A World of Difference: Literature and Globalisation, a core module in your second year of study. Workshops will focus primarily on close readings of a range of texts provided by your tutor. Through these readings, students will develop the ability to utilise and critique a range of critical approaches. Worksheet material will enable you to focus on the critical discussion and will provide additional secondary critical material. Seminars will allow for both individual and group contributions, and students will acquire a portfolio of critical readings, which will be a good foundation for your study of English literature.

In seminars, you will be expected to offer opinions, listen to the opinions of others, and debate key points that enhance your understanding of the literary texts and its importance to academic

study. In seminars, therefore, you develop key skills in debating, critical thinking, close reading, analysis and negotiation, as well as subject-specific knowledge and understanding.

The content of the module is derived from areas of research conducted by your module tutor, in terms of the choice of texts and the various approaches to these texts. Dr Robin Purves has published widely, for example, in the areas of modern and contemporary poetry and psychoanalytic theory.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS: In common with all other English modules, this module is designed to foster an active, participatory, independent approach to learning, to develop critical faculties and to consolidate and develop written and oral communication skills, and to develop a considerate cultural awareness and sensitivity to the backgrounds and beliefs of those around you. You will acquire important skills in the gathering and assessment of research materials; close reading skills; the ability to formulate a logical and sustained argument, orally and in writing; and the ability to meet deadlines comfortably.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through 2 essays (40% & 60%)