



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Doctoral Programme Course

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Doctoral Programmes Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on 2019-06-11.

Discipline/Main Field of Study

English

Course Title

English Literature before 1750

Engelsk litteratur före 1750

Higher Education Credits

7.5

Language of Instruction

English

Degree Level

Doctoral

Target Group and Prerequisites

The course is primarily aimed at students admitted to a doctoral programme in English, with specialisation in literary studies.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- demonstrate deepened knowledge of English literature in the period before 1750,
- demonstrate further understanding of problems related to literary historiography, particularly regarding periodisation and genre, and

demonstrate enhanced ability to critically analyse and evaluate literary texts and different types of literary studies.

Course Content

The course is mainly based on individually selected literary texts from a reading list. In addition to the primary texts, students study appropriate parts of a work of literary history, as well as at least three works of criticism or theory connected to the time period, and selected in consultation with the examiner.

The course also includes a series of seminars on selected primary texts from the reading list. Students are expected to be well prepared for seminars, and to actively participate in discussions.

Course Literature

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is continuous and based on individual assignments, active participation in seminars and an essay.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement.

**Reading List for English Literature before 1750, 7,5 hp
(no works are obligatory; this list is a contingent guide and
the titles are negotiable, but all genres must be represented;
the total selection should be about 3000 pages)**

• **Literature:**

1) Poetry:

Beowulf (Norton)

Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales* (5 tales)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (Norton)

Piers Plowman (Norton)

Sidney: *Astrophil and Stella* (Norton)

Spenser: *The Faerie Queene*, *The Shepheardes Calender*, *Amoretti & Epithalamion* (Norton)

Marlowe: "Hero and Leander" (Norton)

Shakespeare: *Sonnets* (Norton)

Jonson: *Poems* (Norton)

Donne: *Poems* (Norton)

Herbert: *The Temple* (Norton)

Marvell: *Poems* (Norton)

Milton: *Paradise Lost*, *Samson Agonistes*, shorter poems (Norton)

Dryden: "Absalom & Achitobel," "A Song for St. Cecilia's Day"

Pope: "The Rape of the Lock," *An Essay on Man*, *The Dunciad*

Poems of your own choice selected from Skelton, Wyatt, Surrey, Raleigh, Campion, Lady Mary Wroth, Herrick, Crashaw, Vaughan, King, Carew, Suckling, Lovelace, Waller, Butler, Finch, Montagu, Swift, Dr Johnson, Thomson, Gray, Collins, Goldsmith, Crabbe, Cowper (all in Norton).

2) Contemporary Literary Criticism:

Sidney: *The Defence of Poesy* (Norton)

Dryden: *Critical Essays* (selection in Norton)

Pope: *An Essay on Criticism* (Norton)

3) Prose

Selections from the following writers:

Malory, More, Hoby, Ascham, Foxe, Lyly, Hooker, Lanyer, Donne, Milton, Bacon, Burton, Hobbes, Walton, Browne, Pepys, Bunyan, Swift, Addison & Steele, Dr. Johnson, Boswell

Read some of the Longer works:

Malory: *Morte d'Arthur* (read 7 of the 21 Books)

More: *Utopia*
 Elyot: *The Governour*
 Lyly: *Euphues*
 Sidney: *The Old Arcadia*
 Nashe: *The Unfortunate Traveller*
 Bacon: *Essays, New Organon, The Advancement of Learning*
 Burton: *Anatomy of Melancholy* (third partition on "Love Melancholy")
 Browne: *Religio Medici* and *Urn Burial*
 Walton: *Compleat Angler*
 Milton: *Areopagitica, To Establish a Free Commonwealth, The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce, Of Education*
 Hobbes: *Leviathan* (Parts 1 and 2)
 Pepys: *Diary* (kept 1660-69; read excerpt)
 Bunyan: *Pilgrim's Progress* (1678)
 Behn: *Oroonoko* (1688)
 Locke: *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690), *Two Treatises Concerning Civil Government* (1690)
 Swift: *Tale of a Tub* (1704)
 Berkeley: *The Principles of Human Knowledge* (1710)
 Addison and Steele: *The Tatler* and *The Spectator* (1709-14)
 Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe* (1719); *Moll Flanders* (1722); *Roxana* (1725); *Journal of the Plague Years* (1722)
 Hume: *Treatise of Human Nature* (1739); *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (1748)
 Richardson: *Pamela* (1740-41); *Clarissa* (1747)
 Fielding: *Joseph Andrews* (1742); *Tom Jones* (1749)
 Smollet: *Roderick Random* (1748); *Humphrey Clinker* (1771)
 Lennox: *The Female Quixote* (1752)
 Sterne: *Tristram Shandy* (1759-67)
 Goldsmith: *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766)

3) Drama:

The Second Shepherd's Play (Norton)
Everyman (Norton)
 Marlowe: *Doctor Faustus* (Norton)
 Jonson: *Volpone* (Norton)
 Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* (Norton)
 Shakespeare: plays from the categories comedy, tragedy, history, and romance
 Dryden: *Marriage à la Mode* (1672); *All for Love* (1678)
 Etherege: *The Man of Mode* (1676)
 Behn: *The Rover* (1677)
 Otway: *Venice Preserved* (1682)
 Congreve: *Love for Love* (1695); *The Way of the World* (1700)
 Farquhar: *The Recruiting Officer* (1706); *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1707)
 Gay: *The Beggar's Opera* (1728)
 Goldsmith: *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773)
 Sheridan: *The School for Scandal* (1777)

- **Literary Criticism, Theory and History:**

Relevant sections in Andrew Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*,

Relevant period and author introductions in the *Norton Anthology*

Isabel Rivers, *Classical and Christian Ideas in English Renaissance Poetry*, 2nd ed. (1994)

Ian Watts, *The Rise of the Novel* (1954)

Read at least three other critical or theoretical works related to the period, selected after consultation with your supervisor.