



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 from 1750 to 1900

Engelsk litteratur från 1750 till 1900

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 1750 to 1900,

- 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 after 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

Chose from the Norton poetry selections of the following poets:

Blake, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Tennyson, Robert Browning, Arnold, Meredith, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Christina Rossetti, Hopkins

Longer complete poems:

Blake: *The French Revolution* (1791); *The Four Zoas* (1795-1804); *Milton* (1804-08);
Jerusalem (1804-20)

Wordsworth: *The Prelude* (1804 **or** 1850)

Byron: *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812-18); *Don Juan* (1819-24)

Shelley: *The Cenci* (1819; Play); *Prometheus Unbound* (1820; Closet Drama)

Keats: *Endymion* (1818); *Lamia* (1820)

Tennyson: *In Memoriam* (1850); *Maud* (1855); *Idylls of the King* (1869)

Elizabeth Barrett Browning: *Aurora Leigh* (1860)

Meredith: *Modern Love* (1862)

Robert Browning: *The Ring and the Book* (1868-69)

2) Contemporary Literary Criticism:

Wordsworth: Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (Norton)

Coleridge: *Biographia Literaria* (excerpt in Norton)

Shelley: *A Defence of Poetry* (Norton)

Keats: *Letters* (Norton)

3) Novels

Austen: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811); *Pride and Prejudice* (1813); *Mansfield Park* (1814); *Emma* (1816); *Northanger Abbey* (1818); *Persuasion* (1818)

Scott: *Waverley* (1814); *The Antiquary* (1816); *Old Mortality* (1816); *The Heart of Midlothian* (1818)

Dickens: *Pickwick Papers* (1836-37); *Oliver Twist* (1837-38); *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838-39); *Dombey and Son* (1848); *David Copperfield* (1849-50); *Bleak House* (1852-53); *Great Expectations* (1860-61)

The Brontës: Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847); Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)

George Eliot: *Adam Bede* (1859); *The Mill on the Floss* (1860); *Silas Marner* (1861); *Middlemarch* (1871-72)

Hardy: *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874); *The Return of the Native* (1878); *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886); *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891); *Jude the Obscure* (1895)

Walpole: *The Castle of Otranto* (1764)

Mackenzie: *The Man of Feeling* (1771)

Gibbons: *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776-88; read one-volume excerpts)

Beckford: *Vathek* (1786)

Burney: *Evelina* (1778); *Cecilia* (1782); *Camilla* (1796)

Boswell: *Life of Johnson* (1791)

Radcliffe: *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794); *The Italian* (1797)

Lewis: *The Monk* (1796)

Maria Edgeworth: *Castle Rackrent* (1800); *The Absentee* (1812)

Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein* (1818)

Charles Maturin: *Melmoth the Wanderer* (1820)

William Makepeace Thackeray: *Vanity Fair* (1847-48); *Henry Esmond* (1852)

Mrs. Gaskell: *Cranford* (1853); *North and South* (1855)

Anthony Trollope: *Barbister Towers* (1857); *The Way We Live Now* (1875)

George Meredith: *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel* (1859); *The Egoist* (1879)

Wilkie Collins: *The Woman in White* (1860); *The Moonstone* (1868)

Robert L. Stevenson: *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886)

Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)

Rudyard Kipling: *The Jungle Books* (1894); *Kim* (1901)

Samuel Butler: *The Way of All Flesh* (1903)

Works from the anthology *Popular Fiction by Women 1660-1730*, ed. Paula Backscheider and John Richetti

4) Non-novelistic Prose

Chose from the complete prose selections in the Norton of the following writers:

Wollstonecraft, Dorothy Wordsworth, Lamb, De Quincey, Carlyle, Newman, Mill, Ruskin, Huxley

Longer works:

Edmund Burke: *The Sublime and the Beautiful* (1757); *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790)

Tom Paine: *The Rights of Man* (1791-92)

Mary Wollstonecraft: *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (1790); *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792); *Letters Written ... in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark* (1796)

William Hazlitt: *Lectures on the English Poets* (1818)

Thomas DeQuincey: *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* (1822)

Charles Lamb: *Essays of Elia* (1823)

Thomas Carlyle: *Sartor Resartus* (1833-34); *History of the French Revolution* (1837); *Heroes and Hero-Worship* (1841); *Past and Present* (1843)

John Ruskin: *Modern Painters* (1843-60); *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* (1849); *The Stones of Venice* (1851-53)

John Stuart Mill: *The Subjection of Women* (1869); *Autobiography* (1873)

Charles Robert Darwin: *On the Origin of Species* (1859)

John Henry Newman: *Apologia pro Vita Sua* (1864)

T.H. Huxley: *Evolution and Ethics* (1893)

5) Drama

Oscar Wilde: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895; Norton)

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

Overview:

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

All period and author introductions in the *Norton Anthology*

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