

**KARABUK UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty of Letters**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**  
**Undergraduate Program**  
**Spring 2024-2025**

**ELIT 306**

**(I)** *Lecture Hall 304* – Friday 14:40-17:00

**(II)** *Lecture Hall 304* – Friday 17:10-19:30

**Dr. Nihal TOPCU**

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**Office Hours:** Monday 10-12  
SFL Ground Floor Room 1

**MODERN ENGLISH NOVEL**  
**Course Syllabus**



**Course Description:**

This course explores the development of the modern English novel, tracing its evolution from the Victorian period to the modernist era. Through critical readings, discussions, and analyses, students will examine the thematic, stylistic, and structural innovations introduced by key modernist authors. The course focuses on major works by the British novelists Joseph Conrad, James Joyce, Rebecca West, and Virginia Woolf, highlighting the distinctive characteristics of modernist narrative techniques, themes, and forms. These studies will also help students enhance their analytical and interpretive skills through written assignments and presentations.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the key characteristics and innovations of the modernist novel.
2. Analyse the works of major modernist novelists in the context of their lives, cultural influences, and literary contributions.
3. Critically engage with the primary texts and apply theoretical perspectives to their interpretation.
4. Develop and express well-argued analyses in both written and oral formats.
5. Collaborate effectively in group presentations to explore prominent modernist novelists and their works.

## Tentative Weekly Schedule

Week	Subject	Date	Reading list, assignment, presentation
1	Meeting and introduction to the syllabus; transition from Victorian novel to modernist novel	7 February	<i>Introductory</i> Think Paper ( <u>in-class</u> ) Extracts from Charles Dicken's <i>Oliver Twist</i> and Virginia Woolf's <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>
2	Henry James's <i>The Art of Fiction</i> and Virginia Woolf's <i>Modern Fiction</i> ; the literary characteristics of modern English novel	14 February	Study Questions on <i>The Art of Fiction</i> and <i>Modern Fiction</i> Extracts from Katherine Mansfield's <i>The Garden Party</i> and T.S. Eliot's <i>The Waste Land</i>
3	Joseph Conrad's life and art; analysis and discussion of <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	21 February	<i>Group Presentation</i> Study Questions on <i>Chap. 1</i>
4	Continued analysis and discussion of <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	28 February	Study Questions on <i>Chaps. 2-3</i> Think Paper 1 ( <u>in-class</u> )
5	James Joyce's life and art; analysis and discussion of <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	7 March	<i>Group Presentation</i> Study Questions on <i>Chap. 1</i>
6	Continued analysis and discussion of <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	14 March	Study Questions on <i>Chaps. 2-3-4</i>
7	Continued analysis and discussion of <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	21 March	Study Questions on <i>Chap. 5</i> Think Paper 2 ( <u>in-class</u> ) <i>Revision</i>
8	<b>Midterm Exams</b> (essay format)	<b>24-30 March</b>	<b>no lecture</b>
9	Rebecca West's life and art; analysis and discussion of <i>The Return of the Soldier</i>	4 April	<i>Group Presentation</i> Study Questions on <i>Chaps. I-II-III</i>
10	Continued analysis and discussion of <i>The Return of the Soldier</i>	11 April	Study Questions on <i>Chaps. IV-V-VI</i> Think Paper 3 ( <u>in-class</u> )
11	Virginia Woolf's life and art; analysis and discussion of <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	18 April	<i>Group Presentation</i> Study Questions on <i>Part I Chaps. 1-10</i>
12	Continued analysis and discussion of <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	25 April	Study Questions on <i>Part I Chaps. 11-19</i> and <i>Part II Chaps. 1-10</i>
13	Continued analysis and discussion of <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	2 May	Study Questions on <i>Part III Chaps. 1-14</i> Think Paper 4 ( <u>in-class</u> )
14	More Prominent Modernist Novelists <i>D. H. Lawrence, Gertrude Stein, Ford Madox Ford, Franz Kafka, E. M. Forster, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Mann, Marcel Proust</i>	9 May	<i>Group Presentations</i>
15	More Prominent Modernist Novelists <i>Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Jean Rhys, Dorothy Richardson, Samuel Beckett</i>	16 May	<i>Group Presentations</i> <b>!!! Due date for your term papers</b> <i>Revision and conclusion</i>
16	<b>Final Exams</b> (essay format)	<b>17-28 May</b>	<b>no lecture</b>

## Core Reading List:

1. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1899)
2. James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916)
3. Rebecca West, *The Return of the Soldier* (1918)
4. Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927)

## Classroom Policies:

- Attendance is mandatory. Absence from lectures must not exceed 30%.
- All assignments must be submitted on time. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Active participation in discussions is crucial to succeed in this course.

## Assessment Tools:

1. **Midterm Exam:** An essay-based examination focused on critical analysis of the modernist novels covered in the first seven weeks of the course
2. **Class Discussions:** Participation in and contribution to weekly discussions
3. **Think Papers:** Short, in-class reflective writing tasks (150 words  $\pm$ 10%)
4. **Term Paper:** A 1000-word critical analysis of a selected modernist novel
5. **Group Presentations:** Collaborative presentation on assigned novelists
6. **Final Exam:** A comprehensive, essay-based evaluation of all course content, including the modernist novels and themes discussed throughout the semester

## The course percentage breakdown is as follows:

- a. 40% Midterm (80 pts Midterm Exam + 20 pts Class Discussions and Think Papers)
- b. 60% Final (60 pts Final Exam + 10 pts Class Discussions and Think Papers)  
+ 15 pts Group Presentations + 15 pts Term Paper)

## Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is stealing somebody's work or idea and trying to pass it off as original. This is an offence and crime requiring punishment not only across the world but also at Karabuk University. If students take or summarise someone's written works or ideas, they must give the full citation in their assignment according to APA (7<sup>th</sup> edition) citation rules.

**P.S.** To learn how to cite in APA, click the link given below:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide)

## Further Reading List:

Abrams, M. H., & others (Eds.). (2006). *The Norton anthology of English literature* (8th ed., Vol. 2). W.W. Norton & Company.

Besant, W., & James, H. (1884). *The art of fiction*. Cupples and Hurd.

Bradbury, M. (1988). *The modern world: Ten great writers*. Secker & Warburg.

Bradbury, M. (1971). *The social context of modern English literature*. Basil Blackwell.

Bradbury, M. (1994). *The modern British novel*. Penguin.

- Bradbury, M., & McFarlane, J. (Eds.). (1991). *Modernism: A guide to European literature 1890–1930*. Penguin.
- Brooker, P. (Ed.). (1992). *Modernism/Postmodernism*. Longman.
- Brown, D. (1989). *The modernist self in twentieth-century English literature: A study in self-fragmentation*. Macmillan.
- Castle, G. (Ed.). (2015). *A history of the modernist novel*. Arizona State University.
- Daiches, D. (1939). *The novel and the modern world*. University of Chicago Press.
- Daiches, D. (1994). *A critical history of English literature* (Vol. 2). Mandarin.
- Faulkner, P. (1977). *Modernism*. Methuen & Co. Ltd.
- Ford, B. (Ed.). (1966). *The Pelican guide to English literature* (Vols. 1–7). Penguin.
- Goldman, J., & others (Eds.). (2004). *Modernism: An anthology of sources and documents*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Gunes, A. (2012). *Modernism in English literature: A reader*. Savas Yayinevi.
- Hall, S., & Gieben, B. (1995). *Formations of modernism*. Blackwell.
- Hewitt, D. (1988). *English fiction of the early modern period, 1890–1940*. Longman.
- Levenson, M. (Ed.) (1999). *Cambridge Companion to Modernism*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sanders, A. (1999). *The short history of English literature* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Stevenson, R. (1992). *Modernist fiction: An introduction*. Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Stevenson, R. (1993). *A reader's guide to the twentieth-century novel in Britain*. Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Trotter, D. (1993). *The English novel in history, 1895–1920*. Routledge.
- Walter, D. (Ed.). (1990). *Literature in the modern world*. Oxford University Press.
- Woolf, V. (1948). Modern fiction. In *The common reader: First series* (pp. 184–195). The Hogarth Press.
- Woolf, V. (1966a). Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown. In L. Woolf (Ed.), *Collected essays* (Vol. 1, pp. 319–337). Chatto & Windus.
- Woolf, V. (1966b). The narrow bridge of art. In L. Woolf (Ed.), *Collected essays* (Vol. 2, pp. 218–229). Chatto & Windus.