



Boston University Study Abroad
London

Boston University Study Abroad London
Modern British and Irish Writing: Poetry and the Novel Since 1900
CAS EN 310 (*Elective A*)
Spring 2015

Instructor Information

A. Name Julie Charalambides

Course Objectives

This course aims to give students a detailed knowledge of texts selected from a variety of representative and influential modern/modernist authors. As well as providing the student with some degree of requisite contextual information regarding biographical, social and political backgrounds, there will be a predominant emphasis throughout the course on the development of some of the skills and vocabulary that are needed to foster competent and persuasive literary interpretation.

Assessment

1. One essay, at least 2,500 words (about 8 typed pages, double-spaced in 12-point font). The essay will be on the literature of the First World War and will require at least two additional sources. This essay accounts for 35% of your final grade.
2. Final exam consisting of one essay and one exercise in practical criticism. No notes or copies of texts will be allowed in the examination room. The exam accounts for 45% of your final grade.
3. Participation in class sessions and two group exercises account for 20% of your final grade.
4. Class attendance is compulsory. Monday and Tuesday sessions run from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. in the George & Peto Room.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism:

<http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

** Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

Attendance Policy

Classes

All Boston University Study Abroad London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor's note as soon as possible). **Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence**

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness, supported by a local London doctor's note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

Unauthorised Absence:

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Course Chronology

Sessions 1 and 2 (19th and 20th January) The Flaneur

Texts: *Prufrock and Other Observations* and *The Waste Land* by T S Eliot.

Session 3 (26th January) Writing The Waste Land, group exercise.

Session 4 (27th January) Walking Eliot's Waste Land

An exercise in writing and reading the city of London.

Sessions 5 and 6 (2nd and 3rd February) The Great War in the novel and in poetry, from 1914 to 2014

Texts: *Strange Meeting* by Susan Hill.

Toby's Room by Pat Barker. (It would be useful if students had read *Jacob's Room* by Virginia Woolf as I will be referring to it in relation to both set texts but it is not mandatory!). A selection of poems by Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon will be handed out and discussed in class.

Session 7 (9th February) Field trip to The Imperial War Museum, meeting at the museum at 10.00am, nearest underground station, Lambeth North. Students will be able to use this time to undertake research at the museum for their long essay.

Session 8 (10th February) The Irish and the English Short Story

Texts: *The Dead* by James Joyce, *The Odour of Chrysanthemums*, *The Prussian Officer* and *England, My England* by D H Lawrence.

NB. All stories are available free online.

Session 9 (FRIDAY 13th February) The Sacred and The Profane

Selections from the poetry of Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes. Details to follow.

Text: *V* by Tony Harrison

Final examination: Tuesday 17th February. Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

Please check your email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders.

The novel **must** be read in advance. Some suggestions for background and critical reading you will find on the reading lists. Please make full use of *The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*, which you will find in the library and for which there is no substitute.

All students must refrain from eating in class, using Wikipedia in their essays and leaving mobile phones on during class (not in that particular order...).

* **Contingency Class Date: Friday 6th February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend classes should any class dates need to be rescheduled.

Readings

GENERAL:

B.Bergonzi (ed.) *The Twentieth Century (Sphere History of English Literature)* Vol. 7, 1970.

W.C.Booth *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (1961)

M.Bradbury & J.McFarlane (eds.) *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930* (latest ed.1991)

C.Butler *After the Wake: On the Contemporary Avant-Garde* (1980)

R.Ellmann & C.Feidelson (eds.) *The Modern Tradition* (1965)

D.Head *The Cambridge Introduction to Modern British Fiction 1950-2000* (2001)

R.Langbaum *The Poetry of Experience* (1963)

G.Martin & P.N.Furbank (eds.) *Twentieth Century Poetry: Critical Essays and Documents* (1975)

D.C.Muecke *Irony* (1982)

Stratford-Upon-Avon Studies, 18: *The Contemporary English Novel* (1979)

P.Tew *The Contemporary British Novel* (2nd ed., 2007)

D.Walder *Literature in the Modern World: Critical Essays and Documents* (2nd ed., 2004)

T.S. Eliot

For the poetry use either *The Selected Poems* or *Complete Poems and Plays* edition, both Faber. There is a biography by Peter Ackroyd (1984) but you will probably find the first section of Lyndall Gordon's life more relevant – *Eliot's Early Years* (1977) For Eliot's prose you might want to look at either his *Selected Essays* or the *Selected Prose* ed. J. Hayward, or the selection edited by Frank Kermode. There is also an interview with Eliot in *The Paris Review* no.21 (1959.)

B.C.Southam *A Student's Guide to The Selected Poems of T.S. Eliot* (6th ed., 1996)

B.C.Southam *Prufrock, Gerontion and other shorter poems of T.S. Eliot* (1978)

G.Smith Jr. *T.S. Eliot's Poetry and Plays* (1956)

H.Kenner *T.S. Eliot: Invisible Poet* (1959)

H.Kenner ed., *T.S. Eliot: A Collection of Critical Essays* (1963)

D.E.S.Maxwell *The Poetry of T.S. Eliot* (1960)

J.E.Miller *T.S. Eliot; The Making of an American Poet, 1888-1922* (2008)

A.D.Moody *Thomas Stearns Eliot: Poet* (1980)

A.D.Moody ed., *The Cambridge Companion to T.S. Eliot* (1994)

C.Ricks *T.S. Eliot and Prejudice* (1988)

E.Sigg *The American T.S. Eliot: A Study of His Early Writings* (1989)

Tony Harrison

There is a good, annotated selection of Harrison's poetry in *Permanently Bard* (1995) edited by C.Rutter

N.Astley ed., *Tony Harrison : Blood Axe Critical Anthology* (1991)

J.Kelleher *Tony Harrison* (1996)

L.Spencer *The Poetry of Tony Harrison* (1994)

S.Byrne ed., *Tony Harrison* (1997)

S.Byrne 'H', 'V' and 'O' : *The Poetry of Tony Harrison* (1998)

S.Sheehan *The Poetry of Tony Harrison (Focus On)* (2008)

For some pertinent comments on 'V' and obscenity see the chapter 'Lars Porsena Revisited' in *State of the Language* (1990 edition) eds., C.Ricks and L.Michaels

Seamus Heaney

The most generous selection of Heaney's poetry is his *Opened Ground : Poems 1966-1996* (1998.) There is a good interview with Heaney in *The Paris Review* No.144,1997.

B.Morrison *Seamus Heaney* (1982)

T.Curtis ed., *The Art of Seamus Heaney* (1982)

N.Corcoran *Seamus Heaney* (1986)

M.Allen ed., *Seamus Heaney (new casebook series)* (1997)

H.Vendler *Seamus Heaney* (1998)

E.Andrews *The Poetry of Seamus Heaney* (1998)

K.M.Moloney *Seamus Heaney & The Emblems of Hope* (2007)

D.O'Driscoll *Stepping Stones : Interviews with Seamus Heaney* (2008)

B.O'Donoghue ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Seamus Heaney* (2008)

Ted Hughes

For a cross section of Hughes' work try the Faber *Collected Poems* (2003.) There is a biography by Elaine Feinstein *Ted Hughes : The Life of a Poet* (2002) and the letters are available in a Faber volume (edited by Christopher Reid,2007)

K.Sagar *The Art of Ted Hughes* (rev.ed. 1978)
K.Sagar ed., *The Achievement of Ted Hughes* (1983)
K.Sagar *Laughter of Foxes : A Study of Ted Hughes* (2006)
E.Faas *Ted Hughes, the Unaccommodated Universe* (1980)
D.Walder *Ted Hughes* (1987)
T.Gifford *Ted Hughes (Routledge Guides to Literature)* (2008)

For two usefully provocative, critical accounts of Hughes see the essays by G.I.James, 'The Animal Poems of Ted Hughes : A Devaluation' in *Southern Review* vol.II,no.3,1967,193-203, and A.D.Moody's 'Telling it Like It's Not : Ted Hughes and Craig Raine' in *The Yearbook of English Studies* vol.17,1987,166-178.

D.H. Lawrence

F.R.Leavis *D.H.Lawrence : Novelist* (1956)
G.Hough *The Dark Sun* (1957)
H.Coombes ed., *D.H.Lawrence (Penguin Critical Anthology)* (1973)
J.Worthen *D.H.Lawrence and the Idea of the Novel* (1979)
A.Ferrihough *The Cambridge Companion to D.H.Lawrence* (2001)