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

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 a 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
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:**
R.Ellmann & C.Feidelson (eds.) *The Modern Tradition* (1965)  
R.Langbaum *The Poetry of Experience* (1963)  
G.Martin & P.N.Furbank (eds.) *Twentieth Century Poetry: Critical Essays and Documents* (1975)  
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 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)
D.E.S.Maxwell The Poetry of T.S. Eliot (1960)
C.Ricks T.S. Eliot and Prejudice (1988)

Tony Harrison
There is a good, annotated selection of Harrison’s poetry in Permanently Bard (1995) edited by C.Rutter
J.Kelleher Tony Harrison (1996)
L.Spencer The Poetry of Tony Harrison (1994)
S.Byrne ed., Tony Harrison (1997)
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

B.Morrison Seamus Heaney (1982)
N.Corcoran Seamus Heaney (1986)
K.M.Moloney Seamus Heaney & The Emblems of Hope (2007)

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)
E.Faas *Ted Hughes, the Unaccomodated Universe* (1980)
D.Walder *Ted Hughes* (1987)


**D.H. Lawrence**
F.R.Leavis *D.H.Lawrence: Novelist* (1956)
G.Hough *The Dark Sun* (1957)