Instructor Information

A. Name
   Mark Allen

B. Day and Time
   Monday and Tuesday (plus Friday 17th February), 2pm – 6pm

Course Objectives

This course aims to give students a detailed knowledge of texts selected from a variety of representative and influential modern 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.

The issues raised throughout the course will be as various as the works themselves and typically might range from discussions of a specific poetic technique to issues as broad and as provocative as the self and society, class and language, God and nihilism and the nature and function of art.

Assessment

1. One essay, at least 2000 words (about 8 typed pages, double-spaced in 12-point font). The essay is to be devoted to one or more of the texts we have studied and is to be submitted before the final examination. Titles to be discussed with the tutor. This essay accounts for 45% 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 accounts for 10% of your final grade.

4. Class attendance is compulsory. Monday and Tuesday sessions run from 2.15 p.m. to 6.15 p.m. in the Churchill room.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism: http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester

Course Chronology

Sessions 1 and 2 (23rd and 24th January): Poems from the work of T.S.Eliot’s Prufrock and Other Observations

Sessions 3 and 4 (30th and 31st January): Selections from the work of Tony Harrison
Session 5 and 6 (6th and 7th February): Selections from the work of Ted Hughes

Session 7 (13th February): Selections from the work of Seamus Heaney

Session 8 (14th February): Visit to National Portrait Gallery

Session 9 (Friday 17th February): Harrington Room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
Developments in narrative technique and theme: an examination of Virginia Woolf’s Mrs Dalloway.

**Final examination: Tuesday 21st 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. The poems we are to study will be handed out in lectures and various reading assignments will be given out each week. 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 10th February.** Should any class dates need to be rescheduled, students are obligated to keep this date free to attend classes.

**Readings**

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage: www.bu.edu/london/virtual-library/en310 (you must be logged in to view materials).

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

**E. M. Forster**


L. Trilling *E.M. Forster* (1940)
J. Beer *The Achievement of E.M. Forster* (1962)
W. Stone *The Mountain and The Cave* (1966)
G. Cavaliero *A Reading of E.M. Forster* (1979)

**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. 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)


Philip Larkin
For the poetry see *Collected Poems* edited by A.Thwaite (1988) who also edited the *Selected Letters of Philip Larkin 1940-1985* (1993.) The standard biography is by Andrew Motion *Philip Larkin : A Writer’s Life* (1994) and for some of Larkin’s own prose writings see his *Required Writing* (1983.)

A.Brownjohn *Philip Larkin* (1975)
D.Timms *Philip Larkin* (1973)
A.Motion *Philip Larkin* (1982)
D.H. Lawrence

F.R.Leavis D.H.Lawrence: Novelist (1956)
G.Hough The Dark Sun (1957)
B.Finney Lawrence’s Sons and Lovers (Penguin Critical studies) (1990)

Evelyn Waugh
It is important that you use the Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics edition of A Handful of Dust, which contains the alternative ending to the novel as well as an introduction and notes that you will find helpful (edited by Robert Murray Davis.) The standard biography is by C.Sykes, Evelyn Waugh, A Biography (1975.)

M.Bradbury Evelyn Waugh (1964)
J.Heath The Picturesque Prison: Evelyn Waugh and his Writing (1982)
You will also find various valuable comments on the novel interspersed throughout British Writers of the Thirties by Valentine Cunningham (1988.)

Virginia Woolf

N.T.Bazin Virginia Woolf and the Androgynous Vision (1973)
A.Fleishman Virginia Woolf: A Critical Reading (1975)
H.Lee The Novels of Virginia Woolf (1977)
R.Poole The Unknown Virginia Woolf (1978)
There is also a collection of critical essays on Mrs Dalloway (and To The Lighthouse) in the new casebook series edited by Sue Roe (1993.)