

MODL M2044 EUROPEAN LITERATURE OF IDEAS: PHILOSOPHY IN/OF LITERATURE



UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores how the relationship between literature and philosophy has developed in European and foreign cultures since the French Revolution, looking at the three defining cultural movements which have explored and at times exploded this association during this period: Romanticism, Modernism and Postmodernism. The unit will be team-taught, drawing upon a broad but coherent range of examples from a 'literature of ideas' across at least three different foreign languages. The precise choice of texts may vary from year to year, but major contributions to each movement will be selected. These selections will facilitate a variety of critical responses in order to observe and evaluate how literary writing and philosophical ideas have interacted since 1789, from the expressivity of the Romantic sovereign self to the brutally stripped-down subjectivity of Postmodernism. Emphasis will be placed on the intersections and tensions between these various discourses, framed within two critical contexts: firstly, that of the literary turn taken by moral philosophy from the 1980s onwards; and secondly, by extension, that of Plato's so-called 'ancient quarrel' between philosophy and poetry.

UNIT STRUCTURE

Texts will be taught **in translation**. There will be 11 fortnightly seminars in total, lasting one and a half hours each, to include a mini-presentation from the relevant tutor and student presentations / papers (on an agreed rota).

Each of the three cultural movements will be allocated three seminars each. It is intended that each seminar will focus on one primary text, to be supplemented by secondary reading if necessary. For each movement, at least one of the primary texts should be a work of philosophy or critical thinking.

There is of course no obligation for any critical consensus on the relationship between literature and philosophy to emerge within or across these movements. Indeed, contemporary criticism highlights the need for discord as much as harmony between the two practices in order to develop a dynamic understanding of human experience.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(FURTHER READING LISTS MAY BE DISTRIBUTED BY TUTORS)

1. Set Reading for Introductory Session: 'An Ancient Quarrel? Philosophy and Literature'

Plato, *Republic*, Book 10

Colin Davis, 'The Ancient Quarrel: Philosophy and Literature' in *Critical Excess: Over-reading in Derrida, Deleuze, Levinas, Žižek and Cavell* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010), pp. 1-25.

Martha Nussbaum, 'Form and Content, Philosophy and Literature' in *Love's Knowledge* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), pp. 3-53.

Anthony J. Cascardi, 'The Novel' in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Literature*, ed. by Richard Eldridge (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 162-79.

2. Recommended Introductory Reading (available in Bristol's library holdings)

Booth, Wayne C., *The Company We Keep: An Ethics of Fiction* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988) on order

Cornell, Drucilla, *The Philosophy of the Limit* (New York; London: Routledge, 1992) on order

Currie, Gregory, *Narratives and Narrators: a Philosophy of Stories* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010) PN45 CUR

Critchley, Simon, *The Ethics of Deconstruction: Derrida and Levinas* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992) B2430.D484 CRI

Eldridge, Richard (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Literature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) PN45 OXF

Lamarque, Peter, *The Philosophy of Literature* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2009) PN49 LAM

Nussbaum, Martha, *Love's Knowledge: Essays on Philosophy and Literature* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991) BJ46 NUS

Rorty, Richard, *Contingency, Irony, Solidarity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989) BD21 ROR

Rudrum, David (ed.), *Literature and Philosophy: a Guide to Contemporary Debates* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) PN49 LIT

Turner, Mark, *The Literary Mind: The Origins of Thought and Language* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997) on order

3. Reading on Romanticism

Bann, Stephen, *Romanticism and the Rise of History* (New York: Twayne, 1995) D16.9 BAN

Blix, Goran, *From Paris to Pompeii: French Romanticism and the Cultural Politics of Archaeology* (University of Philadelphia Press, 2009) CC101.F8 BLI

Bowman, Frank Paul, *French Romanticism: Intertextual and Interdisciplinary Readings* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990) PQ287 BOW

Eldridge, Richard, *The Persistence of Romanticism: Essays in Philosophy and Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001) on order

————— *Beyond Representation: Philosophy and Poetic Imagination* (Cambridge: Cambridge

- University Press, 1996) PN49 BEY
- Ferber, Michael (ed.), *A Companion to European Romanticism* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005) PN603 COM
- Furst, Lilian R., *The Contours of European Romanticism* (London: Macmillan, 1979) PN751 FUR
- Ginger, Andrew, *Political Revolution and Literary Experiment in the Spanish Romantic Period (1830-1850)* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1999) PQ6070 GIN
- Kompridis, Nikolas (ed.), *Philosophical Romanticism* (New York and London: Routledge, 2006) B836.5 PHI
- Lacoue-Labarthe, Philippe, and Jean-Luc Nancy, *The Literary Absolute: the Theory of Literature in German Romanticism*, tr. by Philip Barnard and Cheryl Lester (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1988) PT363.P6 LIT
- Larrissy Edward, (ed.). *Romanticism and Postmodernism* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) PR605.R64 ROM
- de Man, Paul, *Blindness and Insight: Essays in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Criticism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971) PN85 DEM
- *Romanticism and Contemporary Criticism* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993) PN603 DEM
- Porter, Roy & Mikulás Teich (eds.). *Romanticism in National Context* (Cambridge University Press, 1988) PN751 ROM
- Stephens, Bradley, *Victor Hugo, Jean-Paul Sartre, and the Liability of Liberty* (London: Legenda, 2011) PQ2304.L48 STE
- Swift, Simon, *Romanticism, Literature and Philosophy: Expressive Rationality in Rousseau, Kant, Wollstonecraft and Contemporary Theory* (New York; London: Continuum, 2006) PN56.R7 SWI

4. Reading on Modernism

- Ayers, David, *Modernism: A Short Introduction*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004) PR478.M6 AYE
- Bradshaw, David & Kevin J.H. Dettmar (eds.). *A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005) PR478.M6 COM
- Brooker, Peter (ed.), *Modernism/Postmodernism* (London: Longman, 1992) PN605.P6MOD
- (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Modernisms* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010) PN56.M54 OXF
- Childs, Peter, *Modernism*, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2008) PR478.M6 CHI
- Davies, Steffan and Ernest Schonfield (eds.), *Alfred Döblin: Paradigms of Modernism* (Berlin; New York: W. de Gruyter, 2009) PT2607.O35 ALF
- Earnshaw, Steven, *Existentialism: a Guide for the Perplexed* (New York; London: Continuum, 2006) B819 EAR
- Levenson, Michael H., *Modernism* (New Haven, CT; Yale University Press, 2011) PN56.M54 LEV
- Lewis, Pericles, *The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997) PN56.M54 CAM
- (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to European Modernism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) electronic version available
- Ross, Stephen (ed.), *Modernism and Theory: a Critical Debate* (London: Routledge, 2008) PN56.M54 MOD
- Tauber, Alfred, *Freud: the Reluctant Philosopher* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010) BF109.F74 TAU
- Walters, Margaret, *Feminism: a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005) electronic version available

5. Reading on Postmodernism

- Baker, Keith Michael & Peter Hanns Reill (eds.) *What's Left of Enlightenment? A Postmodern Question* (Stanford University Press, 2001) B802 WHA
- Baker, Stephen, *The Fiction of Postmodernity* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000) PN98.P67 BAC
- Baudrillard, Jean, *Simulacra and Simulation*, trans. by Sheila Faria Glaser (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1994) B2430.B29
- Derrida, Jacques, *Writing and Difference*, trans. Alan Bass (New York; London: Routledge, 2001, c1978) B2430.D482
- Fish, Stanley, *Is There a Text in this Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980) PN81 FIS
- Foucault, Michel, *The Order of Things: an Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (London; New York; Routledge, 2002 ed.), CB78 FOU
- Gibson, Andrew, *Postmodernity, Ethics and the Novel: from Leavis to Levinas* (London: Routledge, 1999) PR888.P69 GIB
- Gutting, Gary, *Thinking the Impossible: French Philosophy since 1960* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) on order
- Jameson, Fredric, *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (London: Verso, 1991) CB430 JAM
- Lyotard, Jean-François, *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*, tr. by Geoff Bennington & Brian Massumi. (Manchester University Press, 1984) BD161 LYO
- McHale, Brian, *Constructing Postmodernism* (London: Routledge, 1992) PN3503 MAC
- Robbins, Jill, *Altered Reading: Levinas and Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999) B2430.L484 ROB
- Sheerin, Declan, *Deleuze and Ricoeur: Disavowed Affinities and the Narrative Self* (London; New York; 2009) B2430.D454 SHE
- Vattimo, Gianni, *The End of Modernity: Nihilism and Hermeneutics in Post-Modern Culture*, tr. by Jon R. Snyder (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1988) B831.2 VAT
- Verdicchio, Massimo and Robert Burch, *Between Philosophy and Poetry: Writing, Rhythm, History* (London: Continuum, 2002) B66 BET
- Waugh, Patricia, *Metafiction: the Theory and Practice of Self-Conscious Fiction* (New York; London: Routledge, 1988) PN3335 WAU

6. Background Reading

- Barfield, Raymond, *The Ancient Quarrel Between Philosophy and Poetry* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) B66 BAR
- Barry, Peter, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (Manchester University Press, 1995) PN81 BAR
- Coleman, Patrick, Jayne Lewis & Jill Kowalik (eds.). *Representations of the Self from the Renaissance to Romanticism* (Cambridge University Press, 2000) PN751 REP
- Connor, Steven, *Theory and Cultural Value* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992) PN49 CON
- Culler, Jonathan, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2000) PN45 CUL
- Davies, Tony, *Humanism*, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2008) B105.H8 DAV
- Gordon, Daniel (ed.). *Postmodernism and the Enlightenment: New Perspectives in 18th-Century French Intellectual History* (New York; London: Routledge, 2001) B1925.E5 POS
- Harpham, Geoffrey Galt, *Getting It Right: Language, Literature and Ethics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992) on order

- Hollis, Martin, *Models of Man: Philosophical Thoughts on Social Action* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977) BD450 HOL
- Leatherbarrow, William and Derek Offord (eds.), *A History of Russian Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) DK189.2 HIS
- Jean-Marie Schaeffer, *Why Fiction?* tr. by Dorritt Cohn (University of Nebraska Press, 2010) on order
- Shoemaker, Sydney, *Self-Knowledge and Self-Identity* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1963) BD161 SHO
- Taylor, Charles, *Sources of The Self: the Making of the Modern Identity* (Cambridge University Press, 1989) BD236 TAY
- *The Ethics of Authenticity* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992) BF637.S4 TAY

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Summer 2012