

HL3010: European Literature

This course explores two important traditions of European literature through a selection of works that span the continent from north (Norway) to south (Italy) and east (Russia) to west (Germany, France and Portugal). All texts, of course, will be read in English translation.

The first tradition we shall look at is the Fantastic, which might be described as continental Europe's counterpart to Gothic literature. The German Romantic Fantastic is illustrated by the best-known of E. T. A. Hoffmann's bizarre and disturbing tales, and the Russian genius for this genre, by Bulgakov's equally zany masterpiece in which the Devil arrives in Stalinist Moscow accompanied by a retinue that includes a very mischievous cat ...

Our second topic is the lucidity with which early Modernist continental European writers explore the translation of vivid personal experience into literature. A selection of Baudelaire's poems illustrates the origins of European Modernism. Hamsun's short but powerful *Hunger* illustrates the birth of the modern novel. And we shall conclude with a selection of short texts by Fernando Pessoa, one of the most extraordinary, but also one of most accessible poets of the twentieth century.

The objective is to introduce these two influential continental European literary traditions, the tension they each exhibit between a *social* reality and the reality of the *imagination*, the nature and implications of their concern with self-consciousness, and the redefinition of the scope and subject of literature proposed by each of our texts. Our final text brings all of these concerns together: Calvino's playful postmodern novel of 1979 is about the problems of reading, writing, and the nature of literature that lie at the heart of this course.

1. Core Texts * = to purchase: available at Yun Nan Book Store		
Hoffmann	'The Sandman' 1816)	available on edveNTUre
Bulgakov *	<i>The Master and Margarita</i> (1930s/1966) tr. Burgin/O'Connor	Picador 978-0330351348 [Or Vintage 978-0679760801]
Baudelaire	selection of works (1857-67)	available on edveNTUre
Hamsun *	<i>Hunger</i> (1890), tr. Lyngstad	Penguin USA 978-0141180649 [or Dover 978-0486431680]
Pessoa	selection of works (1910-1930)	available on edveNTUre
Calvino *	<i>If on a winter's night a traveler</i> (1979)	Vintage 978-1784870614

2. Method of Instruction & Course Assessment		
Method of Instruction	Assessment	
Seminar: 3 hours per week	Continuous Assessment:	2 mini quizzes: 10%
		2 short essays: 40%
		Final Examination: 50%

Coordinator/Lecturer	office room no.	e-mail address
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Proposed Lecture Schedule

Week	Week of:	Author	Text
1	11 Aug	Introductions	To HL3010 and to Hoffmann
2	18 Aug	Hoffmann	'The Golden Pot'
3	25 Aug	Hoffmann	'The Sandman'
4	1 Sep	Bulgakov	<i>The Master and Margarita: the Satire</i>
5	8 Sep	Bulgakov	<i>The Master and Margarita: Pilate</i>
6	15 Sep	Baudelaire	Selected Poems: Spleen and the Ideal
7	22 Sep	Baudelaire	Poems of the City
Recess	(29)		
8	6 Oct	Hamsun	<i>Hunger</i>
9	13 Oct	Pessoa	Selected poems [Caeiro, Reis]
10	20 Oct	Pessoa	Selected poems [Reis, Campos]
11	27 Oct	Pessoa	Selected poems [Campos, Pessoa]
12	3 Nov	Calvino	<i>If on a winter's night a traveller</i>
13	10 Nov	Calvino	<i>If on a winter's night a traveller</i> + Conclusion

Recommended Secondary Material

Audio-Visual

DVDs, available in Media Resources

- Bortko, Vladimir *Master i Margarita* (TV-miniseries: 10 episodes x 52 mins.; 2005)
(Russian, with English subtitles) E574836
- Henning Carlsen (dir.) *Hunger* (112 mins; 1968) F574858

Books

- Hoffmann, E. T. A. *Fantasy Pieces in Callot's Manner* (1996)
- Sandner, David *The Fantastic: A Critical Reader* (2004)
- Freud, Sigmund *The Uncanny* (1919)
- Todorov, Tzvetan *The Fantastic* (1970)
- Jackson, Rosemary. *Fantasy: the Literature of Subversion* (1981)
- Negus, Kenneth *E.T.A. Hoffmann's Other World, the Romantic Author and His New Mythology* (1965)
- Brown, Hilda M. *E. T. A. Hoffmann and the Serapiontic Principle: Critique and Creativity* (2006)
- Wright, A. C. *Mikhail Bulgakov* (1979)
- Natov, Nadine *Mikhail Bulgakov* (1985)
- Milne, Lesley, ed. *Bulgakov: The Novelist-Playwright* (1996)
- Benjamin, Walter *The Writer of Modern Life: Essays on Charles Baudelaire* (2006)
- Peyre, Henri, ed. *Baudelaire: A Collection of Critical Essays* (1963)
- Hyslop, Lois Boe *Charles Baudelaire Revisited* (1992)
- Lloyd, Rosemary *Baudelaire's World* (2002)
- Lloyd, Rosemary, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Baudelaire* (2006)
- Sanyal, Debarati *The Violence of Modernity: Baudelaire, Irony, and the Politics of Form* (2006)
- Hamsun, Knut *Knut Hamsun Remembers America: Essays and Stories, 1885-1949*, ed. R. N. Current (2003)
- Lyngstad, Sverre *Knut Hamsun, Novelist: A Critical Assessment* (2005)
- Pessoa, Fernando *A Little Larger Than the Entire Universe: Selected Poems* (tr. Zenith, 2006)
- Pessoa, Fernando *Fernando Pessoa & Co.: Selected Poems* (tr. Zenith, 1999)
- Markey, Constance *Italo Calvino: A Journey Toward Postmodernism* (1999)
- Bloom, Harold (ed.) *Italo Calvino* (2000)
- Bologaro, Eugenio *Italo Calvino and the Compass of Literature* (2003)