

HL1001: Introduction to the Study of Literature

Professor: Dr. Kevin Riordan (kriordan@ntu.edu.sg)

Tutors: Eunice Lim Yi Ci (ELIM030@e.ntu.edu.sg), Mani Saravanan (MANI0034@e.ntu.edu.sg), Tan Yi Hern Marcus (TANY0439@e.ntu.edu.sg)

Lecture: Mondays 14:30-16:30 (Lecture Theater 24)

Office Hours (HSS 03-72): TBD

Course Description

HL1001 is an introduction to the study of literature at the tertiary level. The course's primary goal is to further develop students' critical reading and writing skills. With the readings, we will pay particular attention to questions of form, style, and context. Through the written assignments, students will become comfortable and confident with the conventions of academic writing while working to develop compelling and well-supported arguments. As we read across a wide range of genres and traditions, our discussions will be focused thematically on the *place* of literature and the ways in which it travels. This class will call on you to be curious, creative, inquisitive, reflective, and critical.

Core texts:

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Folger)
Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Dover)
Coetzee, *Foe* (Penguin)
Course Reader (Available in HSS B1)

Course Assessment:

Paper 1 (Textual Analysis)	15 %
Paper 2 (Comparative Analysis)	20 %
Preparation and Participation	15 %
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>50 %</u>
	100 %

Final Exam: The final exam will contain essay questions about Coetzee's *Foe* and Beckett's *Endgame* as well as short answer questions drawing on the entire course.

Late Policy: All written work is due in hard copy and soft copy (on NTU Learn) at the start of class. Late work will be accepted within twenty-four hours for a reduced grade and it will receive no instructor comments.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. For more details see the School's notice: <http://www.soh.ntu.edu.sg/Programmes/Undergraduate/current/Pages/Plagiarism.aspx>

Prospective Itinerary

Week 1 – Situating Ourselves

August 14 – Course Introduction

Week 2 – Here and There

August 21 – Kincaid, from *A Small Place*; Lahiri, “The Interpreter of Maladies;” Jin, “After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town”

Week 3 – Landing on an Island

August 28 – Shakespeare, selected sonnets and *The Tempest*

Week 4 – Leaving the Island

September 4 – Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Week 5 – Questions of Travel

September 11 – Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*; selected Romantic poetry

Draft of Essay 1 Due in Tutorial

(September 12 – Union Day (Flexible Tutorials))

Week 6 – Letters from Afar

September 18 – Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Essay 1 Due in Lecture

Week 7 – Onwards and Outwards

September 25 – Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Reading Recess

Week 8 – Moving Pictures and Poetry

October 9 – Selected modern poetry

Week 9 – From Space to Time

October 16 – Screen *La Jetée* (in-class)

Essay 2 Proposal Due in Tutorial

Week 10 – Out of Space and Time

October 23 – Beckett, *Endgame*

Week 11 – Still There

October 30 – Beckett, *Endgame*

Essay 2 Due in Lecture

Week 12 – Island Returns

November 6 – Coetzee, *Foe*

Week 13 – Ways of Ending

November 13 – Coetzee, *Foe*

FINAL EXAM: Monday, November 27