



UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

LITERATURE FOR OUR TIME

SYLLABUS 2012-13

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how recent literature in English responds to our world in poetry, prose, and drama. In the fall term we'll visit some of the more famous landmarks of early and mid-twentieth-century literature: London Bridge on a winter morning, a lighthouse off the west coast of Scotland, a sunlit living room in suburban New England, and the bean green waters off Nauset, among others. In the spring term, our guides will be closer to our own time, living writers and new books of the last ten years. In both terms, emphases will include literature's reasons for being, its formal qualities, historical context, relation to other media, and relevance to our moment in history.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Fall Term: T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land, Prufrock, and Other Poems* (Dover); Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (Broadview); Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (Grove); Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Anchor); Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (Vintage); Gabriel García Márquez, *Leaf Storm and Other Stories* (Harper); Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* (Harper).

Spring Term: John Cameron Mitchell, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Dramatists Play Service); Jon McGregor, *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things* (Bloomsbury); Miriam Toews, *A Complicated Kindness* (Vintage); Zsuzsi Gartner, *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives* (Penguin); Michael Lista, *Bloom* (Anansi); John K. Samson, *Lyrics and Poems, 1997-2012* (Arbeiter Ring).

All books are available at the University of Toronto Bookstore, 214 College St.

FALL 2012 SYLLABUS

Date	Tutorial	Lecture
Sept. 14	None	Introduction
Sept. 21	None	Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
Sep. 28	Eliot, "Prufrock"	Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i>
Oct. 5	Eliot, <i>Waste Land</i>	Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>

Oct. 12	Assignment #1	<i>Lighthouse; Modern Times</i> (film)
Oct. 19	<i>To the Lighthouse</i>	Beckett, <i>Waiting for Godot</i>
Oct. 26	<i>Waiting For Godot</i>	Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Nov. 2	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
Nov. 9	Making an Argument	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
Nov. 16	Essay #1 ; <i>Lolita</i>	García Márquez, <i>Leaf Storm</i>
Nov. 23	<i>Leaf Storm</i>	Plath, <i>Ariel</i>
Nov. 30	<i>Ariel</i>	Plath, <i>Ariel</i>

SPRING 2013 SYLLABUS

Date	Tutorial	Lecture
Jan. 11	None	Hedwig & The Angry Inch (film)
Jan. 18	Writing an Essay	<i>Hedwig & The Angry Inch</i>
Jan. 25	<i>Hedwig</i>	McGregor, <i>If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things</i>
Feb. 1	Essay #2 ; <i>If Nobody Speaks</i>	Toews, <i>A Complicated Kindness</i>
Feb. 8	<i>A Complicated Kindness</i>	Toews, <i>A Complicated Kindness</i>
Feb. 15	Editing an Essay	Gartner, <i>Better Living Through Plastic Explosives</i>
Feb. 18-22	Reading Week (Feb. 18 = last day to drop Y courses from record)	
Mar. 1	None	Gartner, <i>Better Living Through Plastic Explosives</i>
Mar. 8	<i>Better Living</i>	Lista, <i>Bloom</i>
Mar. 15	<i>Bloom</i>	Samson, <i>Lyrics and Poems, 1997-2012</i>
Mar. 22	Essay #3 ; <i>Lyrics & Poems</i>	Samson, <i>Lyrics and Poems, 1997-2012</i>
Mar. 29	Good Friday: No Classes	
Apr. 5	Exam Strategies	Conclusion

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