

Course description

Course: LSP530 - New Modes of Thought: Fiction for Engineers (7,5 ECTS)

Year: 2020/2021 Study periods 1-2

For: MTS

Examiner: Magnus Gustafsson 772 5815

Course manager: Magnus Gustafsson 772 5815

AIM

The course aims to promote and enhance the creative and argumentative strengths of engineering students through relatively advanced studies of literature in English. The literature is often inspired by the perspective of engineering as well as science and technology in relation to the surrounding society. The course also introduces alternative ways of thinking and values and the discussion of the role of art and literature in society. LSP530 is one of the courses in the MTS cluster and meets the guidelines of the MTS requirements mainly by emphasising different epistemological perspectives and different world views and values as they are placed in relief in the course literature. The role and development of technology and science during the 20th and 21st centuries is discussed in novels by authors with a science or technology orientation whose novels tend to set potentially conflicting values against each other. Furthermore, the potential and power of technology and science is compared to the limits they are bound by in a postmodern world.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The successful student will be able to:

- share a literary discussion in terms of narratological terms and definitions
- justify a reading with an interpretation and close references to the primary text and to secondary sources
- re-assess the role, function, and impact of technology, culture, and society through analysis and discussion of literature

CONTENTS AND ORGANISATION

In the course, approximately seven novels or plays are discussed and compared in a student-oriented seminar. The term-long seminar meets for three hours once a week. Seminars are conducted online via Canvas, Zoom, Weblogs, and Padlets. There are also elements of creative writing to inform discussions and analyses. The seminar discussions also introduce students to a limited set of literary schools, narratology terms, reading strategies, and literary theory.

Zoom room: <https://chalmers.zoom.us/j/65369721336>

The **main changes** based on the course evaluation 19/20 include re-designing the introduction of narratology and analysis; extending the reading period in study period two; preparing additional introductions on in-class writing tasks and analyses; changing the platforms for the online seminars; reconsidering the reading sequence for MTS; and adding a formative mid-term assignment.

LITERATURE 2020

Lewis Carroll. *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*

Jenny Diski. *Only Human*

Ian McEwan. *Saturday*

Jean Rhys. *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Tom Stoppard. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Jeanette Winterson. *The Stone Gods*

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If possible, we will also set aside time in one seminar for the campus book 20/21 (cf. One-Book-One-Chalmers). Reading that title, however, is not compulsory.

The titles have been ordered at Store and the library. Additional material including short-stories and poetry will be distributed during seminars and via Canvas.

EXAMINATION

Graded based on journaling, contributions to the seminars and online activities and a portfolio of tasks and assignments:

For a the possibility of a pass:

- The 20 most representative items in the journal (see separate information)

For a possibility of a high pass:

- Term paper (see separate information) and / or
- Oral exam to elaborate on a portfolio

TEACHER

Magnus Gustafsson 772 5815

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SCHEDULE

Study period 1 — Wednesday 18-20.45

Session & Date	Class	Prepare/Read	Assignment	Revise
1 (2/9)	Introduction	Course admin	Come!	
2 (9/9)	Short stories	Barthelme / Poe (in Canvas)	Key words and Journal	
3 (16/9)	<i>Saturday I</i> (chapters 1 - 2)	McEwan	Key words and Journal	
4 (23/9)	<i>Saturday II</i>	McEwan II	Journal	Key words
5 (30/9)	<i>The Stone Gods I (to 'Post-War 3')</i>	Winterson	Key words and Journal	
6 (7/10)	<i>The Stone Gods II</i>	Winterson II	Journal	Key words
7 (14/10)	<i>Only Human I</i> (to 'Famine')	Diski	Key words and Journal	
8 (21/10)	<i>Only Human II</i>	Diski II	Journal (submit)	Key words

Please note:

Shorter in-seminar assignments will be used where appropriate and the instructions for the online seminars are specific assignments.

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Study period 2 — Wednesday 18-20.45

Session & Date	Class	Prepare/Read	Assignment	Revise
1 (4/11)	<i>Catch-up and check in</i>		Journal (submitted)	
2 (11/11)	<i>Alice I + II</i>	Carroll	Key words and Journal	
3 (18/11)	<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i>	Stoppard	Key words and Journal	
4 (25/11)	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea;</i> Introducing the term paper and the portfolio	Rhys	Key words and Journal idea for term paper	
5 (2/12)	<i>Poetry;</i> Introductory workshop on term paper and portfolio	Tranströmer	Key words and term paper & portfolio draft material	
6 (9/12)	<i>OBOC;</i> Term paper & portfolio peer work	(OBOC)	Term paper & portfolio draft material	Revision of term papers and & portfolio
7 (16/12)	'Achievements' presented, short-story discussed, seminar closed	(You)	Second version of term paper & portfolio	
8 (December - January)	Peer response work and tutorials	Book individual tutorial sessions	Portfolio: Jan 16? (TBD)	

Please note: Shorter in-seminar assignments will be used where appropriate and the instructions for the online seminars are specific assignments.

(See separate information for updated schedule in Canvas and the Canvas calendar)