

Comparative Literature 202: Section 3
Major Texts: Renaissance to Modern

“The (In)Human”

Instructor: Amir Hussain

Class: MWF 4:00-4:50, Callaway S101

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Office Hours: F 3-4pm and by appointment,
Woodruff Goizueta Business Library

Course Description

Since antiquity, literary and philosophical writings have explored what happens to the human when nature is transformed—internally and externally. In this course, we will read across national borders as we pay attention to what literary writers from the modern period have to say on the relationship between human and nature, self and world, and the limits of human nature itself. For example, what can be gleaned on this topic in Goethe’s *Faust*, a classic tale about a scholar who wishes to transcend human limits and experience everything? Or how does Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* illuminate the limits of scientific discovery? Through a diverse range of comparative literary and critical readings, the course will trace a literary history across borders on these issues.

Required Books and Course Readings

You are required to obtain the following four book editions, available at the campus bookstore:

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust*, Part One (Oxford)
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Oxford)
Rabindranath Tagore, *Gitanjali* (Dover)
Alistair MacLeod, *Island: The Complete Stories* (Norton)

The other course readings will be available to you as digital links on Course Reserves.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is essential to success in this class. Bring your readings and a notebook to class each day. Complete the reading so you can participate in class. You may miss up to three classes without incident. For every class you miss after three, I’ll lower your participation grade by 15%. If you have more than five absences, I’ll also lower your overall grade by a letter grade. It is your responsibility to complete the readings as scheduled and ask for a peer’s notes, if you miss class. Meet with me if you feel your situation warrants an exception to this rule; bring appropriate documentation with you.

Canvas

All assignments will need to be typed and submitted through Canvas. All submissions must be double-spaced, 12-point font. Late work will receive a 5% deduction for each late day (weekends count). Please check Canvas regularly. I will post assignment sheets, submit comments and grades on your assignments, and mark attendance on Canvas.

A Word (or Two) on Technology

Computer use is a privilege in my classroom. For the roughly three hours we meet in class each week, I ask that you observe the following technology policy. Physical copies of the books listed above are required. Laptops may only be open to the readings when we discuss the readings that are posted on Course Reserves. During other class times (small group work, in-class writing or peer review), laptops will not be open. If laptops are being used for purposes besides the course readings during class time, I will amend the policy and everyone will be required to bring printed copies of the readings. It is in the interest of the class that everyone follows the technology policy. Please also bring a pen and notebook with you to class for note-taking or in-class writing.

Contact/Communication

Email or coming to my office hours are the best ways to contact me if you have questions or concerns. Generally, I will respond to student email within 24 hours (although on weekends and holidays, it can take longer). I expect email communication to be professional and respectful.

Cooling-off Period

If you wish to speak me about a grade you received on a graded assignment, please wait 24 hours before contacting me.

Academic Integrity

The Honor Code (<http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>) is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. I take plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty seriously. Should I suspect that you engage in academic dishonesty in this course, I will refer the case to Emory's Honor Council. You may also receive an F on the assignment in question.

Inclement Weather Make-up Class Policy

Emory has developed a new policy for inclement weather make-up classes. For longer closures (three or more days), specific days are set-aside to make-up classes. For Spring 2018, those dates are: Saturday 24 & Sunday 25, March 25 2018 (for the first two missed class days)
Saturday 14 & Sunday 15, April 15 2018 (for the second two missed class days)

Course Assessment

Course Breakdown

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Students are expected to come to class having read assigned materials. In-class participation during discussions will be expected. You will be asked to speak respectfully in class and share your thoughts about readings and discussion topics. You will have one formal presentation where you will present your written work to the class. Distractions and disruptions during class time and coming late to class will negatively affect your grade.

Two Essays: 45% (22.5% each)

In two essays (five to six pages each), you will respond to a specific prompt based on the readings we have done thus far. The essay prompt will be posted on Canvas in advance of due dates.

Optional Revision: You have the option to revise *one* of your first two essays by a date specified on the syllabus. If you choose to submit a revised essay, I will average the grades on the original and the revised essay for a new grade on that essay. It is recommended to take advantage of this revision opportunity, but it is not required and will not negatively affect your grade.

Final Essay: 35%

Your final project will be a synthetic essay (eight pages long) in which you will be asked to draw together several course readings and themes together. This final essay project will require multiple stages (outline, individual conference with me, and peer feedback for revision). The essay prompt will be posted on Canvas in advance of due date.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Wed Jan 17 Fri Jan 19	First week of Class
Week 2	Mon Jan 22 Wed Jan 24 Fri Jan 26	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), <i>Faust</i> (sections 1 - 4) <i>Faust</i> (sections 5 - 8) <i>Faust</i> (sections 9 - 16)
Week 3	Mon Jan 29 Wed Jan 31 Fri Feb 2	<i>Faust</i> (sections 17 - 24) <i>Faust</i> (sections 25 - 28) <i>Faust</i>
Week 4	Mon Feb 5 Wed Feb 7 Fri Feb 9	György Lukács (1885-1971), “Faust and Mephistopheles” (194 - 199) “Faust and Mephistopheles” (pages 200 - 217) “Template for Analyzing...”
Week 5	Mon Feb 12 Wed Feb 14 Fri Feb 16	Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (sections I - IV) “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (sections V - VII) William Wordsworth (1770-1850), “The Thorn” Essay One Due
Week 6	Mon Feb 19 Wed Feb 21 Fri Feb 23	Mary Shelley (1797-1851), <i>Frankenstein</i> (Intro, Preface, Letters I - IV) <i>Frankenstein</i> (Chapters I - VII) <i>Frankenstein</i> (Chapters VIII - XII)
Week 7	Mon Feb 26 Wed Feb 28 Fri Mar 2	<i>Frankenstein</i> (Chapters XIII - XX) <i>Frankenstein</i> (Chapters XXI - XXIV) Johanna M. Smith, “A Critical History of <i>Frankenstein</i> ” and Warren Montag, “The Workshop of Filthy Creation”

Week 8	Mon Mar 5 Wed Mar 7 Fri Mar 9	Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” (I - III) “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” (IV - VI) Oscar Wilde documentary (in-class viewing)
Week 9	Mon Mar 12 Wed Mar 14 Fri Mar 16	SPRING BREAK – No Class this Week
Week 10	Mon Mar 19 Wed Mar 21 Fri Mar 23	Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), <i>Gitanjali</i> <i>Gitanjali</i> Tagore documentary (in-class viewing) <u>Essay Two Due</u>
Week 11	Mon Mar 26 Wed Mar 28 Fri Mar 30	W.B. Yeats (1865-1939), “Wild Swans at Coole” Robert Frost (1874-1963), “Desert Places” attendance at poetry reading (4pm), Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Jones Room, 311 Woodruff Library
Week 12	Mon Apr 2 Wed Apr 4 Fri Apr 6	Walter Benjamin (1892-1940), “The Storyteller” (sections I - VI) “The Storyteller” (sections VI - XIV) “The Storyteller” (sections XV - XIX)
Week 13	Mon Apr 9 Wed Apr 11 Fri Apr 13	library session: meet at Woodruff Library 312 Alistair MacLeod (1936-2014), <i>Island</i> , “In the Fall” <i>Island</i> , “The Road to Rankin’s Point” <u>Optional Essay Revision Due</u>
Week 14	Mon Apr 16 Wed Apr 18 Fri Apr 20	<i>Island</i> , “Winter Dog” No Class – <u>Individual Conferences: outline due</u> No Class – <u>Individual Conferences: outline due</u>
Week 15	Mon Apr 23 Wed Apr 25 Fri Apr 27	<i>Island</i> , “Island” Student Presentations
Week 16	Mon Apr 30	Student Presentations (Last Day of Class)
Exam Period		<u>Final Essay Due</u>

* schedule is subject to minor changes as course progresses