DESCRIPTION DES COURS
(28 juin 2019)

DÉPARTEMENT DE LANGUE ET DE LITTÉRATURE ANGLAISES

ANNÉE ACADÉMIQUE 2019-2020
(sous réserve de modification)

Afin de vous renseigner sur l’horaire des cours indiqués dans cette description, ainsi que d’éventuelles modifications ou annulations de cours, vous êtes invité-e-s à contrôler le programme des cours en ligne avant le début de chaque semestre: http://www.unige.ch/lettres > Enseignements > Programme des cours > Programme des cours en ligne 2019-2020

To consult the days and times of the courses listed below, as well as any last-minute changes or cancellation of courses, please check the official version of the timetable on the following link before each semester begins: http://www.unige.ch/lettres > Enseignements > Programme des cours > Programme des cours en ligne 2019-2020

A = semestre d’automne / Autumn
P = semestre de printemps / Spring
AN = toute l’année / Year-long
CR = cours / lecture course
CS = cours-séminaire
SE = séminaire / seminar
TP = travaux pratiques / practical work
CP = complément d’enseignement
RE = séminaire de recherche

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Baccalauréat universitaire (Bachelor of Arts, BA) – Anglais

BA1 : Littérature anglaise

3E040

32E0108 - Lecture course - Introduction to the Study of Literature (year-long) – S. Swift / M. Leer

The BA1 lecture course introduces students to the reading of English literature and the writing about it. It is divided into four parts over two semesters: the first on poetry and the essay taught by Simon Swift; the second on drama and narrative taught by Martin Leer. Each weekly lecture is supported by an analysis of texts class where issues raised in the lecture can be discussed by students with their tutor. Students will also have regular classes dedicated to academic writing skills.

In the first semester we will begin to think about what is at stake in the reading of a poem in English through close examination of a range of poetic examples. We will consider the essay as a form that has a history, ask what essays are trying to do, and what reading them can teach us about how to write them.

In the second semester some of the essential features of drama will be introduced through a close reading of William Shakespeare's Hamlet. Narrative will be studied through a range of texts from the Middle Ages to the contemporary world.

32E0109 - Film Club related to Introduction to the Study of Literature (year-long) – Enseignants Lettres

The cinematic interpretation of a literary work provides for alternative or complementary readings of that work, and the transfer of narrative from page to screen can reveal important aspects of both media. For this reason, some seminars in the English Department include films as an integral part of their subject of study.

Organised by an assistant teaching in the English Department Film Club provides regular screenings at a time and place independent of the seminars. Open to all members of the English Department, the Film Club is also an informal meeting point for students outside the classroom. Students are free to attend any session they are interested in.

Films are screened on Thursday evenings in B112 starting at 7.15 p.m. For an up-to-date schedule, please consult the Department website or the posters at the English Department and by the Library. We hope you will enjoy the screenings and feel inspired to pursue your discussion of the interpretations of texts with your fellow students afterwards.
3E052
32E0270 - Travaux pratiques - Analysis of Texts (year-long) - Enseignants Lettres

The sections of Analysis of Texts are devoted to close study of the literary texts listed in the programme for the Introduction to Literature lecture course. Each section is taught each semester by a single instructor, who assigns written work and administers written examinations. The section provides a forum for discussion and addresses questions of textual analysis for a two-hour period each week.

The sections of Analysis of Texts take place every week. Students taking module BA1 must sign up to a section during the English department’s permanence at the Autumn Rentrée.

3E053
32E0271 - Travaux pratiques - Composition (Academic and Critical Writing Skills) (year-long) – Ens. Lettres

The sections of Critical Writing will deal with the following language skills: grammar, spelling, punctuation, style, expression, accurate command of technical and critical terms, accuracy and clarity of written and oral presentations. Students must refer and consistently adhere to the rules set out in the department's Style Sheet, which is available from the secretariat, and are also strongly encouraged to attend the Writing Lab.

The hour-long sections of Critical Writing take place every week. Students taking module BA1 must sign up to a section during the English department’s permanence at the Autumn Rentrée.

BA2 : Linguistique et langue anglaises

3E003
32E0019 - Lecture course - Introduction to English Linguistics (year-long) – E. Haeberli

This course provides an introduction to linguistics as “the scientific study of language”. After a short introduction to general issues – the aims and methods of linguistics, a brief overview of the different fields in linguistics – the lectures will concentrate on the core areas of linguistics: semantics/pragmatics (meaning), phonetics/phonology (sounds and sound patterns), morphology (word formation), and syntax (sentence formation). This implies acquiring the descriptive tools and illustrating how these descriptive tools can be applied to the study of the English language. The final section of the course will focus on one area of the grammar of English, the auxiliary system, and we will study this topic against the general background outlined in the first part of the course.

Material for the lecture course and the TPs in English linguistics will be made available on the course website (https://moodle.unige.ch/)

3E004
32E0020 - Travaux pratiques - English Linguistics (year-long) – Enseignants Lettres

The TPs are “hands-on” sessions designed to reinforce and practise the notions introduced in the lecture course “Introduction to English Linguistics”. They also focus on the acquisition of specific skills, such as examining linguistic data, identifying linguistic problems, solving the problems using linguistic tools, and writing short essays.

Material for the lecture course and the TPs in English linguistics will be made available on the course website (https://moodle.unige.ch/)

The sections of English Linguistics take place every week. Students taking module BA2 must sign up to a section during the English department’s permanence at the Autumn Rentrée.

3E054
32E0272 - Travaux pratiques - Practical Language (year-long) – Enseignants Lettres

Practical Language classes are designed to help students consolidate and improve their proficiency in grammar, vocabulary and language use. In addition to language practice, the course aims to introduce a basic descriptive framework for the English language. This is designed to enable students to develop their own mastery of the language independently, and to be useful for those who aim to go on to teach.

The sections of Practical Language take place every week. Students taking module BA2 must sign up to a section during the English department’s permanence at the Autumn Rentrée.
Since the Anglo-Saxon period, the English language has undergone substantial changes, and Old English, as illustrated in the example below, has become nearly unintelligible to speakers of present-day English.

Paes ymb ii niht Æþered cyning & Ælfred his broþur þær micle fierd to Readingum gelæddon. (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, year 871; ‘About four days later, King Ethered and his brother Alfred led their main army to Reading.’)

The phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon of English have changed considerably over the last thousand years. The aim of this course is to provide a brief overview of the main developments in these different domains and to identify the various traces that the English of the past has left in present-day English. Although the focus will be on the language, relevant aspects of the political, social and cultural context will also be discussed. Furthermore, the developments in the history of English will allow us to consider the more general question of how and why languages change.

Students are asked to purchase the following textbook: Johnson, Keith. 2016. The History of Early English. London: Routledge.

This class discusses different varieties of English spoken around the world. In order to consider a language a “variety” of English, we must first define the features of a language, and identify those which may vary. We will see that beyond the lexicon, many aspects of both the phonology (sounds) and the morpho-syntax (structure) of a language make it a variety of English. Our world trip will take us from the British Isles (selection from Southern British English, Northern British English, Irish English, Scottish English), through the American Continent Canadian English, Chicano English, African-American Vernacular English) and Australia & New Zealand to Africa (selection from South-African English, Liberian English, Nigerian English), India (Indian English) and Singapore (Singlish).

All documents will be provided on Moodle during the semester (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

Old Norse was the language of the Scandinavian Middle Ages - it was the language of the Icelandic sagas, skaldic poetry, and the mythological and heroic poetry of the Edda. In this course students will be introduced to, and examine, a range of Old Norse literary genres as well as their historical and cultural context. Students will read and analyse Old Norse texts, in English translation, with an emphasis on the sagas and poetry of medieval Iceland. Students will also be introduced to the fundamentals of Old Norse grammar and vocabulary, to develop basic reading and translation skills.

All texts are included in the reader that can be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch

The Old English epic poem Beowulf is one of the masterpieces of English literature, and is a rare survival of a literary tradition that pre-dates the Norman conquest of England. It has been translated and modernised many times, with academics and poets drawn to this task for a variety of reasons and readerships. In this seminar, we will get to grips with the basics of the Old English language in order to ask questions of what the act of translation involves. We will look
at the history of the poem’s translation, which range from attempts to render the poem in either verse or prose, and which date from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first. Students will interact with the text in both its original Old English form and unique manuscript context, its oral performance history, and in its many forms of translation (including by J.R.R. Tolkien and Seamus Heaney, to name a few). This course will have a Moodle page (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

3E0277 - Seminar – Chaucer’s Art (Spring) – G. Bolens

Geoffrey Chaucer lived in 14th-century England, was the son of a wine seller, and worked for a salary all his life, as he did not belong to the clergy or the aristocracy. In this social context, he became one of the most influential writers in the history of English literature. We will closely analyze his texts to understand how his art made a lasting difference. We will see how he transformed well-established genres (such as dream visions, fabliaux, animal fables, and romances), and offered new perspectives on human interactions and traditional forms of thinking.

All texts are included in the reader that can be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch

BA5 : Littérature moderne des 16e, 17e et 18e siècles

3E043

3E0115 & 3E0116 - Lecture course - An Introduction to English Literature, 1500-1800 (Autumn / Spring) – L. Erne / E. Kukorelly

This compulsory lecture course, which may be followed in either the autumn or the spring semester, provides an introduction to English literature written in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Students are strongly encouraged to attend it before, or at least at the same time as, but not after the seminars devoted to the period covered by module BA5. Indeed, one of the aims of this lecture course is to equip students with the knowledge of literary history upon which BA5 seminars rely. The lecture course is divided into two parts, the first devoted to the Renaissance (ca. 1500-1660), the second to the Restoration and the eighteenth century. Among the historical and intellectual developments that will be addressed in the first part are Humanism and the Reformation, early modern poetry (both lyric and epic), early modern drama, and English Renaissance literary theory. Against a backdrop of political and social unrest, the second part will examine Restoration drama, the poetry of the Augustan or neo-classical period, the periodical essay and conduct literature, satire, and the development of prose fiction towards what is commonly known as “the novel.”


3E044

3E0132 - Film Cycle Related to BA5, BA6 and BA7 Seminars (year-long) – Enseignants Lettres

This film cycle cannot be followed as a study option. Films will be announced as and when relevant, during seminars.


This seminar proposes an examination of seventeenth-century prose from the perspective of the reader’s experience of a text both during the process of, and as a direct function of, the very act of reading itself. We will be asking questions including: What actually happens when we read a text? Can the experience of reading be understood as an event in its own right? Can a reader be said to in some way participate in an author’s process of ‘meaning-making’ by virtue of his or her own experience of reading? Primary texts to be consulted in this course range from the dizzying utopian masterworks of Francis Bacon’s ‘The New Atlantis’ (1627) and Margaret Cavendish’s ‘The Blazing World’ (1666) to Robert Burton’s allegedly therapeutic medical-philosophical textbook on ‘The Anatomy of Melancholy’ (1621) and the epic Christian allegory of John Bunyan’s ‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’ (1678). In this seminar students will engage in close textual analysis with some of the finest prose works to have been produced by what is arguably one of the great periods of English prose-writing, all the while remaining mindful of their own experiences of reading and learning hands-on the various ways in which the meaning of any text is almost inevitably also in some important sense an outcome of our own experience of reading it.

Required texts for purchase:
Events in France after 1789 posed important questions about the status of women in European civilization: on the one hand, women formed important actors in the early Revolution, and many women writers in England had high hopes that events in France would improve their social condition. But the revolution was also increasingly driven by misogynistic hatred of Marie Antoinette, and by a reproductive pressure on women to populate the nation inspired by the questionable ideas about their social role found in the writing of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In this seminar, we’ll study representations of women in accounts of events in France; read sections of one of the first texts of modern feminist theory (Mary Wollstonecraft’s A Vindication of the Rights of Women); read a poem written by a woman describing the lives of French refugees living in England; and work with fiction and an extraordinary travel narrative written in the shadow of the enormous hopes and disappointments that the revolution produced in women writers.

Texts for purchase: Mary Wollstonecraft, “Letters Written During a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark” (OUP), Mary Hays, “Memoirs of Emma Courtney” (OUP). Both will be made available as Librairie Payot, 7 rue de la Confédération, 1204 Genève, and other texts on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

In this seminar we will study three of Shakespeare’s comedies: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, “Much Ado about Nothing”, and “The Taming of the Shrew”. We will engage closely with the texts and study the important and sometimes troubling issues they raise, including about love, marriage, language, and power. Apart from studying them on the page, we will also engage with the play texts as scripts for performance which live on today on stage and on screen.

Text editions:

If we are living, as some have said, in the ‘Golden Age’ of satire, it is not the first of its kind. In this seminar we will read texts by John Donne, John Dryden, Alexander Pope, and several of their contemporaries, leading up to and around another ‘Golden Age’, 1660-1740. The multifarious formal verse satires and satiric poems that proliferated in this period engage with themes like religious identity, political events, human nature, and relations between the sexes. Some of our considerations include the ongoing relevance (or not) of historically-specific satires, the coherence (or not) of this genre defined by heterogeneity, and the strategies for dealing with the (potential) misunderstanding of satiric irony. By looking at how satire was written and thought about in the past, it is hoped that we may better understand satire in our own times.

The reader for this course is available for order online at https://polycopie.unige.ch.. You may pick it up 48 hours later at Centrale des polycopiés (Uni Mail).

This seminar has two goals: to acquaint you with an example of the early English novel, and, in the process of doing just that, to have a good read – by this I mean pleasure and enjoyment. When “Tom Jones” was published in 1749, it was an immediate success, finding eager readers among a public that was avid for fictions of a new genre, one that explored issues close to readers’ experiences. The hilarious and touching adventures of Tom Jones, a foundling, in which we follow him around the South of England as he pursues his beloved Sophia Western, provide ample examples of characteristics that have come to be identified with the early novel: realism of action, characters, and time/place; plot complexity; and a focus on the feelings, thoughts, experiences and agency of autonomous individuals.


The collection of poems published in 1609 under the title “Shakespeare’s Sonnets” is arguably the most famous as well as the most accomplished collection of English lyric poetry. The purpose of this seminar will be to study this collection in some depth by means of a detailed investigation of individual poems as well as a sustained consideration of the sonnet sequence as a whole. We will also examine the multi-faceted reception history of Shakespeare’s “Sonnets”. Students need to purchase the following edition:

32E0305 - Seminar – Lyric Poetry and the Self in Early Modern England (Spring) – A. Auld

In the preface to his poems in 1656, Abraham Cowley distanced himself from his fictional speaker, the voice of eighty-three love lyrics collectively known as 'The Mistress'. Cowley insisted that 'it' — poesie — 'is not the Picture of the Poet, but of things and persons imagined by him. He may be in his own practice and disposition a Philosopher, nay a Stoick, and yet speak sometimes with the softness of an amorous Sappho'. Over the centuries, the relationship between the lyric speaker (or fictional voice) and the nonfictional author has become a central preoccupation in the study of literature. In this seminar, we will seek out nuanced and historicized ways of articulating the relationship between the self and the lyric poem in Early Modern England. Our selection of poems deals with love, fictional self-representation and personae, sexual and religious intimacy, autobiography, friendship and verse letters. Throughout we will be attentive to the ways in which genre sets up (and potentially subverts) certain assumptions about the relationship of the author to his or her work.

The reader for this course is available for order online at https://polycopie.unige.ch. You may pick it up 48 hours later at Centrale des polycopiés (Uni Mail).

32E0281 - Seminar – Practical Criticism in the English Renaissance (Spring) – N. Weiss

This seminar will build off of the skills, and in particular the command of technical and critical terminology, developed by students in such 'Travaux pratiques' courses as 'Analysis of Texts' and 'Composition'. Surveying various literary figures of speech (such as 'homonym', 'ekphrasis', 'aposiopesis', etc.) in a specifically Renaissance context, each session of this course forms a case-study in a particular Renaissance figure of speech through the prism of three distinct literary-critical outlets. First, we will examine a Renaissance figure of speech in terms of how it was described by the literary critics of its day in the literary-critical works of Renaissance rhetoricians such as Henry Peacham and George Puttenham. Second, we will consider each figure of speech in terms of the works of a handful of Renaissance poets and writers in whose oeuvres a given literary figure of speech features prominently. Lastly, we will look to what our own contemporary literary-critical peers have had to say about how a particular figure of speech was used more broadly across a variety of early modern genres and sometimes more narrowly in connection to the rhetorical practices of a particular Renaissance author. This course is an exercise in practical criticism and critical practice for the close textual analysis of Renaissance texts (and beyond): it aims not only to historicise English Renaissance literary theory, but also to explore the origins of our own contemporary critical practices, down to the very words we use to describe the literature we read.

All texts will be made available to students via Moodle.

BA6: Littérature moderne et contemporaine des 19e, 20e, et 21e siècles

3E045

32E0218 - Lecture course – The Literatures of the Contemporary English-Speaking World (Autumn) – M. Leer

This course aims to give a historical and geographical introduction to the literatures of the contemporary English-speaking world outside of the United States. As the official language of 54 sovereign nations and a spoken and literary language in many more, English is the carrier of great cultural diversity. Beginning with the territorial expansion of the British Empire in the nineteenth century - as portrayed in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness (1899) – this course will show some of the facets of postcolonial and world literature written in English through a series of historical ruptures and geographical dislocations: literary modernism in Ireland at the beginning of the twentieth century (W B Yeats, James Joyce); the nationalist literature of the independence movements of India and Africa in the 1930s-1960s; the radical experimentations of Caribbean literature in the 1960s and 70s; literary responses to the environment, multiculturalism and indigenous-settler relations in Canada, Australia and New Zealand; as well as transnational and migrant literature of recent decades. Prose fiction, poetry and drama or film will all be covered.

32E0254 - Lecture course – Romantic Writing (Spring) – S. Swift

This lecture course will offer you an introduction to the literature of the Romantic period (c.1770-1832). We will examine a range of writings — poetry in various forms, the novel, the essay, political discourse — in order to get to grips with a key period in the development of modern literature and society. We will understand much of the literature of the age as a response to the dramatic events of the French Revolution from 1789 onward, which inspired both awe and revulsion in Britain. Topics examined will include: experimentation with form in poetry and prose; ideas of the sublime and the beautiful (including key responses to the Swiss landscape); self-consciousness in writing; memory and nostalgia; relations to landscape and responses to war; gender and mobility; relationships to time and history; ideas of sympathy and the imagination.

Texts that we study will include Wordsworth and Coleridge’s “Lyrical Ballads”, Jane Austen’s “Persuasion”, and the Odes and letters of John Keats. Most texts will be made available via Moodle, while others will be available for purchase at Librairie Payot, 7 rue de la Confédération, 1204 Genève, 1204 Genève.
3E057 & 3E058

3E0132 - Film Cycle Related to BA5, BA6 and BA7 Seminars (year-long)

This film cycle cannot be followed as a study option. Films will be announced as and when relevant, during seminars.

3E0306 – Seminar – The Novels of Jane Austen (Autumn) – E. Kukorelly

After William Shakespeare, Jane Austen is the best-known and best-loved author in the English literary canon. Many remember her novels through the softening and simplifying lens of the cinema, which confers a sort of faux-timelessness on her work. During this seminar, we will read her novels, as we see just how thematically complex they are and how they resonate strongly with their historical period. Indeed, the turn of the nineteenth century, far from being a period of bucolic country living, was that which saw the Industrial Revolution take off, which ushered in Britain’s “Imperial Century” (Ronald Hyam 2002), and was thus a period of quick and profound change. Our attention will be drawn by Austen’s engagements with these changes, as well as her treatment of the interrelated questions of women, marriage, autonomy and money. We will examine Austen’s pioneering novelistic form, as it informs and engages with our thematic concerns. As we turn our critical minds down these analytical avenues, we will also have an absolutely fabulous time reading some of the wittiest novels ever written.

Please purchase the Oxford World’s Classics editions of the following: Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma, and Persuasion. Texts will be on order at Librairie Payot, 7 rue de la Confédération.

3E0285 - Seminar – Tennyson and his Ghosts (Autumn) – L. Dessau

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) had a long and rich literary career, stretching across more than half of the nineteenth century. Following the death of William Wordsworth, he was appointed Poet Laureate in 1850 and held the position until his death in 1892. Tennyson remains the longest serving Poet Laureate to this day.

In this seminar, we will look at a good range of Tennyson’s poems, from the wide variety of poetic forms in which he worked. We will study the short lyrics, including ‘Charge of the Light Brigade’, before turning to longer narrative poems, and the reflective mourning of “In Memoriam A.H.H’. We will take the time to consider how Tennyson uses myths and legends. Considering the significance of allegory, alongside the realism of the Victorian novel, students will consider the innovations in literary form that we can see across Tennyson’s work. We will read Tennyson with the cultural, political and social contexts of the Victorian period in mind, and consider what W. H. Auden meant when he suggested Tennyson ‘had the finest ear, perhaps, of any English poet’.

Text for purchase: Selected Poems: Tennyson edited by Christopher Ricks (London: Penguin, 2007), this will be available at Librairie Payot, 7 7 rue de la Confédération, 1204 Genève, 1204 Genève.

3E0284 – Seminar – Queer and Two-Spirit Turtle Island Literature (Autumn) – P. Zanella

This seminar will examine a variety of texts written by two-spirit, queer-spirited, Indigenous LGBTQ+ writers. We will read a selection of poetry, prose, and plays by writers from different Indigenous nations in North America, which some Indigenous people refer to as Turtle Island. An assorted reader will feature work by Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo), Beth Brant (Bay of Quinte Mohawk), Chrystos (Menominee), Qwo-Li Driskill (Cherokee), Kent Monkman (Swampy Cree), Tommy Pico (Kumeyaay), Natalie Diaz (Mojave), Kai Minosh Pyle (Métis and Baawiting Anishinaabe), Gwen Benaway (Anishinaabe and Métis), Billy-Ray Belcourt (Driftpile Cree Nation), Smokii Sumac (Ktunaxa), Joshua Whitehead (Oji-Cree from Peguis First Nation), and others. We will also discuss Métis writer Cherie Dimaline’s dystopian, young adult novel “The Marrow Thieves”.

Texts to be purchased:
All other primary texts will be made available in a reader to be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch. A selection of secondary literature will be made available on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

3E0286 - Seminar – Migrant Tales (Autumn) – M. Leer

Migration is one of the great social, political and cultural issues of our times. Refugee studies, migration studies and adoption studies have all shown narrative to be a core element in understanding the phenomenon. This seminar will take a literary approach to narratives of migration, introducing a wide range of ways to tell stories that involve the movement across political, cultural and linguistic borders and the experience of migrants in their “host” cultures: from Sam Selvon’s “The Lonely Londoners” (1956) through Anne Michaels’ “Fugitive Pieces” (1996) and Monica Ali’s “Brick Lane” (2003) to Shaun Tan’s graphic novel “The Arrival” (2006) and Behrouz Boochani’s “No Friend But the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison” (2018), which was smuggled out as text messages from the Australian “offshore detention
centre" for asylum seekers on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, but has won many of the most prestigious Australian literary awards for 2019.

32E0288 - Seminar – D.H. Lawrence (Spring) – S. Swift

Derided as a pornographic deviant and possible traitor during his lifetime in the early Twentieth Century, D.H. Lawrence was recognized by many of his fellow writers as one of the most important modern writers in English – and still is. His work offers a brutally direct and passionate attack on English civilization, which Lawrence thought in terminal decline, and a dense and powerful representation of what he understood to be its causes: the problem of social class (of which he knew well, coming from a working class background), industrialization, and sexual repression. Much of Lawrence’s work was banned for obscenity during his lifetime, and he spent a good portion of his adult life in exile, on what he called a “savage pilgrimage” in search of a different, more primitive and more vital form of life. We’ll read three of his most important novels, plus some of his short stories and poems; readers should be ready for a frank representation of sex, passionate descriptions of the natural world, a curiosity about homosexual attraction, and about the libidinal dynamics of the family.

Texts for purchase: “Sons and Lovers,” “Women in Love” (both in OUP), “Lady Chatterley’s Lover” (Penguin). These will be made available at Librairie Payot, 7 rue de la Confédération, 1204 Genève. Other texts will be made available on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

32E0289 - Seminar – Samuel Beckett: Three Novels (Spring) – O. McKenzie

Description pending.

32E0290 - Seminar – Multicultural Canada (Spring) – M. Leer

Canada became the world’s first official “multicultural” nation in 1967, and multiculturalism became the great theme of Canadian literature in the 1980s and 1990s. This seminar will first introduce two of the major Canadian contributions to philosophical and political definitions of multiculturalism: Charles Taylor’s “The Politics of Recognition” and Will Kymlicka’s “Multicultural Citizenship”. It will then turn to a historical survey of narratives of multiculturalism from Rudy Wiebe’s “The Blue Mountains of China” (1970) through Joy Kogawa’s “Obasan” (1981) and Michael Ondaatje’s “In the Skin of a Lion” (1986) to Wayson Choy’s “The Jade Peony” (1995) before taking in the cross-fertilisation in Canadian drama between the Québécois Michel Tremblay's “Les belles soeurs” (1968) and First Nations playwright Tomson Highway’s “The Rez Sisters” (1986).

32E0307 – Seminar – Theatre and Politics: West Africa and the West Indies – N. Weeks

In “Caribbean Discourse” (1981), the Martiniquan poet Edouard Glissant provocatively asserted that “a politicized people is one that transcends folklore”. The Caribbean literary critic Elaine Savory seems to concur as she remarks that, “African forms of expression, love of the word and the inventive use of music, masking, dance, possession and ritual survived in the Caribbean despite attempts on the part of colonial authorities to eradicate them. They are most developed in postcolonial society in neo-African, creolized cults such as pacomania, Rastafarianism, vodoun, Shango worship and the African-centred Baptist church, and these to a lesser extent Indo-Caribbean festivals, provide important vocabularies for theatrical performance of all kinds.” This seminar will explore what such assertions entail for the theatre of the Caribbean area and its complex filiation to West African theatre and ancestral performing arts traditions – e.g. the politics of representation of a theatre genuinely related to a people’s consciousness, the dynamics of creolization at work in the language(s) of the plays, the recourse to an increasingly self-reflexive dramaturgy, etc. The seminar will feature a range of plays in both English and French from the mid 1930s to the 1980s, including plays by C.L.R. James, Derek Walcott, Aimé Césaire, Édouard Glissant, Wole Soyinka, Maryse Condé, Errol Hill, Earl Lovelace, Michael Gilkes, Sylvia Wynter and Trevor Rhone.

All texts for the seminar are available in a set of readers (part I and part II) to be purchased online @ polycopie.unige.ch and collected at the centrale de polycopie d’Uni Mail.
32E0291 - Seminar – The Decadent Movement in Literature (Spring) – P. Jones

This seminar is designed to give you an overview of British decadent literature from the 1880s and 1890s. We will cover a range of genres and authors: the poetry of Swinburne and the Rossettis; the prose and plays of Oscar Wilde; as well as the literary-critical writings of Arthur Symons and Walter Pater. Through a mixture of close textual analysis and intellectual-historical contextualisation, our readings of these texts will enable us to explore some of the key thematic preoccupations of the decadent movement such as aestheticism (‘art for art’s sake’), perversity, and artificiality.

All texts will be made available online.

BA7 : Littérature et civilisation américaines des 16* – 21* siècles

3E059

32E0292 & 32E0293 - Lecture Course – American Literature Since 1497 (Autumn or Spring) – D. Madsen

This lecture course offers a survey of literature written about, and in what later became known as, the United States of America: from the discovery period to the present. We will look to the influence of Elizabethan Protestant nationalism on colonial Puritanism to formulate a distinctive form of American literary expression, and trace this legacy through three centuries of canonical American Literature. Lectures will deal with the literatures of the discovery and colonial periods, the early national period of the eighteenth century, the “American Renaissance” of the nineteenth century, Modernism of the early twentieth century and its successor, Postmodernism.

The lecture course is complemented by the seminar, “American Literary Counter-Voices,” which completes the BA7 module. It is strongly recommended that students follow both the course and the seminar in the same semester.

Texts: All texts are included in the polycopié that can be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch.

3E060

32E0132 - Film Cycle Related to BA5, BA6 and BA7 Seminars (year-long)

This film cycle cannot be followed as a study option. Films will be announced as and when relevant, during seminars.

32E0294 & 32E0295 & 32E0296 & 32E0297 - Seminar – American Literary Counter-Voices (Autumn or Spring) – D. Madsen / P. Zanella / C. Martin

This seminar complements and supports the lecture course “American Literature Since 1497” and it is strongly recommended that students follow both the course and the seminar in the same semester. The seminar puts into question the cultural, political, and social work performed by the canonical texts of the American literary tradition by attending to significant “minority” voices: notably, gendered, regional, and racialized voices. Issues that will be discussed include: Native responses to English colonization and the westward expansion of the United States, African-American accounts of slavery, Chicano/a and Asian literary interventions concerning immigration, and women's writing and feminism. These counter-voices question and critique the foundational values of the US Republic, while challenging the dominant narrative of national formation promoted by the canonical American literary tradition.

Texts: All texts are included in the polycopié that can be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch.
How did performers move in a play from the fifteenth century? What did those plays look and sound like, and what was the affective experience of the performer and the spectator? These questions are not easily answered, and in order to do so, we must think about historical modes of performance from a fresh perspective. Looking at alternative ways to use dramatic texts to interrogate questions about movement, voice, emotion, and experience is one possible strategy, but a framework that helps us to think differently about the past and its traditions is also necessary. In this seminar, we will consider what can be done with surviving performance texts related to these questions, and engage with critical perspectives that open up different viewpoints. A reader and Moodle page will be made available for students, available

Shakespeare wrote most of his plays by adapting earlier works: novellas, prose romances, chronicle histories, narrative poems, or plays. Shakespeare's plays have in turn been adapted in various genres and media, including drama (e.g., Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"), prose (e.g., Charles and Mary Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare"), film (e.g., "Ten Things I Hate About You"), musical (e.g., "West Side Story"), opera (e.g., Verdi's "Falstaff"), or even manga ("The Manga Shakespeare"). The aim of this year-long seminar (which can be attended in either or both of the two semesters) is to study Shakespeare adaptations in the double sense of the word: adaptations by and adaptations of Shakespeare. Studying Shakespeare's plays as sites of adaptation will lead us to engage with issues such as the concept of adaptation (how, on a theoretical level, do we distinguish between "adaptation" and "work"?), the politics of adaptation (how has Shakespeare been appropriated for political ends?), or the importance of media to adaptation (how does the medium affect the message, to ask with McLuhan). We will begin, in the autumn semester, with an investigation of how Shakespeare's "Othello" adapts a novella by Giraldi Cinthio and will later study how Verdi and Boito's "Otello" adapts Shakespeare's play. Other plays in whose adaptations we will be interested include "King Lear".

In this seminar we will examine a very broad range of poetry produced by men and women under the reign of Queen Victoria. This was a period of paradox: industrialization and Britain's growing imperial power led both to enormous optimism as well as suffering (the causes of the latter eloquently described by one of the great Victorian gentlemen, Karl Marx); the emergence of "the woman question" and discussion of the survival of "primitive instinct" began to reshape ideas of sexuality and to challenge ideas of married life, while Darwin's discoveries began to shake religious belief. We will trace these social contexts in our reading. Topics to be considered in addition to those above will include poetic form and the idea of the printed voice, the pull of the past, grief and melancholy, and the effect of commodity culture on poetry. We'll look in detail at the work of some of the key poets across the period (including Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Christina Rossetti, the Brownings, Emily Bronte, Swinburne, Arnold and Hardy), as well as some Victorian poetic theory.

34E0299 - Seminar – The Early Modern Religious Sonnet (Autumn) – N. Weiss

This seminar is designed to provide students with an in-depth introduction to a relatively neglected genre in early modern English literature. The enormous cultural esteem enjoyed by the Renaissance love sonnet in Western literary tradition has meant that the facts pertaining to its sibling devotional counterpart, the early modern religious sonnet, have been not only largely obscured and peripheralised by comparison but even consistently misrepresented. The history of the early modern religious sonnet that we shall set out to recover in this course thus poses significant challenges to our received literary history of this prolific era of sonnet writing that spanned the life of the English literary Renaissance; and perhaps its greatest surprise is that the only sonnet which in fact spanned the life of the English Renaissance was not secular in nature, but sacred. Building off of students’ knowledge of more canonical poets such as John Donne, John Milton and George Herbert, this course will also introduce students to a range of less-known poets, including the Catholic sonneteers William Alabaster and Henry Constable, and other minor devotional sonneteers such as Anne Lok, Elizabeth Melville, Frances Quarles, Nicholas Breton, Barnabes Barnes and Henry Lok.

All texts will be made available to students via Moodle.

34E0263 - Seminar – Histories of Reading (Autumn) – M. Leer

"Reading” has clearly changed meaning in the move from a book-based to a screen-based culture in recent decades, but it is still unclear what has been lost and what has been gained. This seminar will attempt to put this change in a longer perspective by drawing on the history of reading (Alberto Manguel), the history of the book (Michel Merlot) and “Schriftlichkeitsgeschichte” (Ivan Illich). We will briefly look at experiments with digital and online forms of the book, but be more concerned with the experimental forms that printed books (sometimes known as “visual writing” or “book sculpture”) have taken from Marc Saporta’s “Composition No.1” (1962) and B S Johnson’s “The Unfortunates” (1968) to Jonathan Saffron Foe’s “Tree of Codes” and Anne Carson’s “Nox” (both 2010).

34E0264 - Seminar – Decolonizing Unnatural Narratology (Spring) – D. Madsen

According to the “Living Handbook of Narratology,” an “unnatural” narrative “violates physical laws, logical principles, or standard anthropomorphic limitations of knowledge by representing storytelling scenarios, narrators, characters, temporalities, or spaces that could not exist in the actual world.” In this seminar we will study narrative texts in poetry and prose that contest the concept of a monolithic “actual world,” by analyzing the “unnatural” elements of Indigenous American narratives that violate the defining norms of non-Indigenous understandings of “the natural” and “the actual”: for example, the attribution of sentience to objects like rocks, trees, waters, corpses, and to other-than-human animals; storytelling scenarios like dream-visions; and other-than-earthly characters that include sacred beings as well as monstrous figures like windigos and skinwalkers.

Texts for purchase: Gerald Vizenor, “Dead Voices: Natural Agonies In The New World” (1992) and Louise Erdrich, “The Painted Drum” (2005); other texts are available from Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

34E0310 - Seminar – Reading Digital Media (Spring) – D. Madsen

In this seminar we will consider the ways in which the tools of literary analysis can be applied to digital texts such as hypertext narratives, video poems, and video games. Using analytical tools derived from hypertext theory and game studies, as well as ludology and digital narratology, we will engage with such issues as intermediality (relations between text, image, and sound); hypertextual (distributed) structurality; the creation of new literary genres in the born-digital environment; affectivity and the digital-interactive interface. Focusing on narrative video-games, we will ask how born-digital media transform inherited literary elements like character, plot, narrative agency, and generative story grammars. We will also attend to the growing body of scholarly work devoted to the literary analysis of digital media.

Texts: we will use free Open-Access primary media so access to a computer or tablet (PC or Mac) is required but we will not use console-based media. Secondary readings are available from Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

34E0233 - Seminar – Adapting Shakespeare (II) (Spring) – L. Erne

Shakespeare wrote most of his plays by adapting earlier works: novellas, prose romances, chronicle histories, narrative poems, or plays. Shakespeare’s plays in turn have been adapted in various genres and media, including drama (e.g., Tom Stoppard’s “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead”), prose (e.g., Charles and Mary Lamb’s “Tales from Shakespeare”), film (e.g., “Ten Things I Hate About You”), musical (e.g., “West Side Story”), opera (e.g., Verdi’s “Falstaff”), or even manga (“The Manga Shakespeare”). The aim of this year-long seminar (which can be attended in either or both of the two semesters) is to study Shakespeare adaptations in the double sense of the word: adaptations by and adaptations of Shakespeare. Studying Shakespeare’s plays as sites of adaptation will lead us to engage with issues such as the concept of adaptation (how, on a theoretical level, do we distinguish between “adaptation” and “work”?); the politics of adaptation (how has Shakespeare been appropriated for political ends?); or the importance of media to adaptation (how does the medium affect the message, to ask with McLuhan). We will begin, in the autumn
semester, with an investigation of how Shakespeare's "Othello" adapts a novella by Giraldi Cinthio and will later study how Verdi and Boito's "Otello" adapts Shakespeare’s play. Other plays in whose adaptations we will be interested include "King Lear".


34E0300 - Seminar – Humour (Spring) – G. Bolens & S. Brazil

‘Humour’ (also spelled ‘humor’) is notoriously difficult to define. The very concept of humour has a long history, and numerous theories have been offered throughout the centuries to account for this highly complex human phenomenon. ‘Humor Studies’ is now acknowledged as an academic domain with dedicated journals, such as ‘Humor: International Journal of Humor Research’. The purpose of this seminar is to consider canonical as well as novel theories of humour, and to pay attention to the interconnected features of cognition, culture, history, and media in the production and reception of humour. To this end, we will study a variety of texts and performances of different historical periods.

All texts are included in the reader that can be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch

34E0231 - Seminar – Ambiguity (Ambivalence) (Spring) – S. Swift

"A clear idea is another name for a small idea," wrote Edmund Burke in 1757, and literature has long been valued for its capacity to create effects of mystery, uncertainty, and ambiguity. In this seminar, we will examine the power of ambiguity and “the burden of the mystery” in some of Burke's Romantic successors, before going on to think about the emergence of the theme of ambivalence in an array of late Nineteenth-Century discourses, including ethnography and psychoanalysis, and in disturbing literature in this period. Finally, we'll turn to the world of literary criticism and poetry from the 1930s, where literary ambiguity comes under suspicion as an attempt to evade political commitment, while also being defended (by another Burke, Kenneth) as an inevitable effect of the problematic efforts of language to refer to the world. In the end, we will be concerned with the very real questions of how to write clearly about texts which are themselves unclear, and what is at stake in our valuing of clarity in our own writing, and ambiguity in what we read.

Most texts will be made available on Moodle, apart from Henry James, “The Turn of the Screw” (OUP) which will be available at Librairie Librairie Payot, 7 7 rue de la Confédération, 1204 Genève, 1204 Genève.

34E0311 – Seminar – Interdisciplinary Research (Spring) – G. Bolens

This seminar is directly linked to the transversal seminar “Questions de Recherche” (https://www.unige.ch/lettres/fr/recherche/seminaire-questions-de-recherche/printemps-2020), in which every fortnight a member of the Faculty of Humanities will offer a lecture on his or her current research. In the seminar “Interdisciplinary Research”, we will develop a practice of interdisciplinarity, and ways of creating original avenues for novel research perspectives.

All texts are included in the reader that can be ordered online at polycopie.unige.ch

34E0265 - Seminar – Fire as a Literary Element (Spring) – M. Leer

Based on Gaston Bachelard’s “The Psychoanalysis of Fire” and the fire historian Stephen Pyne’s work on the confrontation between wildfire and hearth-based civilisation in “Burning Bush” and “Vestal Fire”, the seminar will first survey a few classic European evocations of fire and the theme of bushfires in Australian literature, before moving on to a reading of four contemporary poetic novels and novels in verse from around the globe, which feature fire as a central element, but in quite different ways: Michael Ondaatje’s “The English Patient” (1992), Les Murray’s “Fredy Neptune” (1997), Anne Carson’s “Autobiography of Red” (1998) and Yvonne Vera’s “Butterfly Burning” (1998).

Séminaire de langue et littérature anglaises : linguistique

3E049 & 3E051 & 3E030

34E0236 - Seminar – Language Variation and Change (Autumn) – E. Haeberli

Variation and change are pervasive aspects of language. They can be observed in every language and in every domain of linguistics. As an illustration consider (1).

(1) I saw her face and I was like ‘Who’s that? She looks familiar.’

A sentence like (1) would not have occurred in English about fifty years ago. The so-called quotative be like construction is a recent innovation and thus illustrates how English changes. Furthermore, this construction illustrates variation as the way it has been used since its emergence is not uniform across varieties and speakers.

In this seminar, we will take a closer look at the nature of variation in language and the way it is related to change.

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The first part of the seminar will provide an overview of some central topics in the study of variation and change: Methodology (data collection, analysis of linguistic variation), variation in different domains of linguistics (phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics/pragmatics), social factors affecting variation (social class, gender, style), language over time (real vs. apparent time, variation in childhood and adolescence), the effects of language contact (diffusion, koineization, bilingualism). In the second part, we will explore some topics in more detail by reading recent research papers. Readings will be made available on the course website on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

34E0237 - Seminar – English as a Lingua Franca: communicative network or linguistic imperialism? (Autumn) – G. Puskas, M. Palliotto

Finnish recalls Nordic landscapes and fairy creatures, Warlpiri sounds exotic, Quechua is more than a sport clothing brand, Chinese is the language of the future, but one needs Arabic to understand the present. Still, no other language is as sexy as English. Diplomacy, journalism, finance, but also the Academic world or trivialities such as gaming, and many other spheres of activities contribute to the inexorable rising of English as the lingua-franca of our era.

This course wants to be a forum for discussing the benefits and the disadvantages of this linguistic landscape from the perspective of the non-native English community. L2 English speakers are proudly attached to their second language and its vital communicative potential, however they (we) rarely consider the costs, intended in the broader sense of the word, that this bilingualism entails. The goal of this course, therefore, is to reflect on this form of colonization of our time by looking at the research conducted across different academic disciplines such as linguistics, sociology and economics.

Documents and bibliography will be provided on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/) at the beginning of the semester and will be updated as we go along.

34E0267 - Seminar – Syntactic Variation (Spring) – E. Haeberli

Variation is an intrinsic property of language. We can observe variation across languages, variation across dialects of the same language, variation across speakers of the same dialect/language (inter-speaker variation), and variation within a single speaker (intra-speaker variation). The latter two types of variation raise a certain number of interesting theoretical issues, and our focus in this seminar will be on these types within the domain of syntax. A simple example of intra-speaker variation would be the word order alternation in English found with particles (e.g. ‘Chris turned the lights on’ vs. ‘Chris turned on the lights’). Cases of variation raise questions such as how two options can be derived syntactically, or what makes speakers choose one option rather than the other one. These issues will be explored on the basis of a range of case studies that we will examine during the seminar. We will also consider aspects of register variation, focusing in particular on colloquial English and diaries.

Readings will be made available on the course website on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

34E0312 – Late Modern English (Spring) – E. Haeberli

In a recent contribution to a handbook on English historical linguistics, Aarts, López-Couso & Méndez Naya (2012) observe that “[t]he Late Modern English period has received much less scholarly attention than earlier stages in the history of English, partly because of its closeness to the present day and its apparent similarity to the contemporary languages”. Many interesting developments can be observed in English from 1700 to today, however, including innovations (e.g. the ‘get’ passive), losses (e.g. ‘be’ as an auxiliary in the present perfect), regulatory changes (e.g. the regulation of the use of the relativizers ‘who’ and ‘which’) and purely quantitative changes (e.g. the increase of non-finite complementation at the expense of finite complementation). Recently, the interest of Late Modern English has been recognized and there is now a growing body of literature focusing on this period. In this seminar, we will consider a range of studies that investigate change in the recent history of English, and we will explore some of the general implications these studies have for our understanding of the nature of linguistic change.

Readings will be made available on the course website on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/).

34E0241 - Seminar – Macro and Micro-Variation in the DP (Spring) – G. Puskas

This class explores some of the properties of nominal expressions. While English, like some Indo-European languages, functions on a definite/indefinite axis, other languages lack definiteness marking altogether, and still others mark specificity rather than (in-)definiteness. Similarly, languages vary as to how nominal elements are modified, both at the morphemic level (gender, classifiers, plural/paucal) and at the syntactic one (adjectives, numerals, quantifiers). While we will be focussing on how the above properties are realized in English, we will also largely draw on cross-linguistic evidence and exploit various groups of languages to highlight instances of variation. Familiarity with basic syntactic theory and structures is assumed. Documents and bibliography will be provided on Moodle (https://moodle.unige.ch/) at the beginning of the semester and will be updated as we go along.
**Hors module**

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