
TOPICS: MODERN ARABIC LITERATURE in Fall 2018 (ME2091A)

Course Code	ME2091A	Professor(s)	David Tresilian
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-112
Class Schedule	TF: 09:00-10:20 in PL-1	Office Hours	TBA
Credits	4	Email	dtresilian@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	718

Course Description

This course looks at ideas of self and other as these are expressed in selected literary texts. It starts with ideas of otherness, sexual and cultural, as expressed in a major work of ancient Greek tragedy, Euripides's *Medea*, before moving on to the representation of cultural and racial otherness in Shakespeare's *Othello*, one of the English Renaissance dramatist's four major tragedies. The course examines how the other or outsider can be seen as at once seductive and disruptive, forcing a reconsideration of hierarchies of sex and power. Longer prose works read in the course, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and Stoker's *Dracula*, examine the possibilities and anxieties associated with the opening up of the wider world. While Defoe is writing during the heroic phase of early capitalist expansion, his lonely protagonist exploiting and reordering the non-European world, Stoker's wildly popular horror novel dramatizes late-Victorian anxieties of invasion in lurid and melodramatic terms. Freud's 'Fragment of a Study of Hysteria,' his case of Dora, probes otherness within, raising the possibility that all of us, for the psychoanalyst, are ultimately strangers to ourselves. Finally, Tayeb Salih's *Season of Migration to the North*, an Arab rewriting of themes from *Othello*, reverses the gaze of Shakespeare's play in a twentieth-century tale of otherness at home and abroad.

The course is also designed to help students perfect the skills necessary for writing academic English. Through intensive writing and revision, the course will allow students to practice aspects of writing such as critical thinking, planning, organization, mechanics, word choice, style and editing. The research paper will be an integral part of the course, as will class presentations on the texts and related to the research project. Since writing is a process, emphasis will be placed on the stages required to achieve a successful final product.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the Speaking the World requirement and as such has the following learning objectives:

- To learn to recognize historical and cultural contexts;
- To read better, through an introduction to critical reading skills;
- To engage with major texts of world literature.

Course Outline

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Week I - 10th - 14th

Tuesday 11th - Session I

TOPICS Introduction

Friday 14th - Session II

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READINGS Euripides, Medea

September 16th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II - 17th – 21st

Tuesday 18th - Session I

TOPICS Presentation 1

READINGS Euripides, Medea

Friday 21th - Session II

TOPICS Presentation 2

READINGS Euripides, Medea

Week III - 24th – 28th

Tuesday 25th - Session I

TOPICS Presentation 3

READINGS Shakespeare, Othello

Friday 28th - Session II

TOPICS Presentation 4

READINGS Shakespeare, Othello

October

Week IV – 1st - 5th

Tuesday 2nd - Session I

READINGS Shakespeare, Othello

Friday 5th - Session II

TOPICS In-Class Essay 1, Medea / Othello

Week V – 8th -12th

Tuesday 9th - Session I

READINGS Defoe, Robinson Crusoe

Friday 12th - Session II

TOPICS Presentation 5

READINGS Defoe, Robinson Crusoe

Week VI - 15th - 19th

Tuesday 16th - Session I

TOPICS Presentation 6

READINGS Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

Friday 19th - Session II

TOPICS In-Class Essay 2 *Robinson Crusoe*

Week VII – 22nd – 26th

Tuesday 23rd - Session I

READINGS Stoker, *Dracula*

Friday 26th - Session II

TOPICS Presentation 7

READINGS Stoker, *Dracula*

October 26th, Mid-semester grades due

Week VIII – 29th – Nov. 2nd

Tuesday 30th - Session I

TOPICS Presentation 8

READINGS Stoker, *Dracula*

October 31st , November 2nd, (included) fall break, no classes

November

Week IX – 5th – 9th

Tuesday 6th - Session I

LIBRARY I

Friday 9th - Session II

READINGS Freud, *Fragment of a Case of Hysteria*

November 9th, Last day to withdraw from a course/no credit option

Week X - 12th -16th

Tuesday 13th - Session I

LIBRARY II Research Proposals Due

Friday 16th - Session II

TOPICS Presentation 9

READINGS Freud, Fragment of a Case of Hysteria

Week XI -19th – 23rd

Tuesday 20th - Session I

TOPICS Presentation 10

READINGS Freud, Fragment of a Case of Hysteria

Friday 23th - Session II

READINGS Salih, Season of Migration to the North

Week XII -26th - 30th

Tuesday 27st - Session I

TOPICS Presentation 11

READINGS Salih, Season of Migration to the North

Friday 30th - Session II

TOPICS In-Class Essay 3 Dracula / Fragment of a Case of Hysteria / Season of Migration to the North

First Draft Research Paper Due

December

Week XIII – 3rd – 7th

Tuesday 4th - Session I

TOPICS Research Presentations

Friday 7th - Session II

TOPICS Research Presentations

Week XIV - 10th - 14th

Tuesday 11th - Session I

TOPICS Research Presentations

Final Draft Research Paper Due

December 12th, Last day of classes, December 13th -16th, Reading days

December 17th – 21st, Final exams

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

In-class essays with revisions 30%

Typewritten research paper 30%

Final exam 20%

Presentations and participation 20%

The Department of English and Comparative Literature has established the following grading guidelines to evaluate the student's progress in writing:

A= Clearly planned and developed, with original ideas and excellent written expression;

B= Well organized, with strong potential;

C= Adequate, with reasonably sound command of style and grammar;

D= Confused in style, with errors of various kinds;

F= Unsatisfactory, with no evidence of effort to improve.

Note: A *plus* or *minus* may follow these letter grades at the instructor's discretion.

Other

Course Requirements

You will write three in-class essays in this course, including the mid-term. Typed, double-spaced revisions of these will be due after you receive your corrected first draft. In other words, you will turn in two version of each essay: a first draft and a final draft. The second draft will receive a letter grade.

Wide reading significantly increases vocabulary and writing skills. Therefore, reading and critical analysis are heavily emphasized in this course. The readings are crucial for class discussion, for the in-class essays, and for your own personal improvement in writing and thinking. In the first half of the course a presentation on the readings will be scheduled.

In the second half of the course, you will prepare a research project leading to a twelve-page research paper as well as a class presentation. See the class schedule for the research paper schedule.

Research paper guidelines:

The research paper should be approximately twelve typewritten pages of content, complete with a title page, an outline, a clear thesis statement, parenthetical citations and a works cited page. Your thesis must be supported by relevant source material. A list of possible topics will be handed out in class, and your proposal needs to be approved by the instructor.

Please note that the research paper is to be submitted **in print and electronic format**. In accordance with University policy, written work is examined using anti-plagiarism software.

All written work done outside class must be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt font, in accordance with MLA format.

Note: Late essay drafts and research papers will result in a lowered grade.