
WRITING & CRITICISM in Spring 2021 (EN2020F)

Course Code	EN2020F	Professor(s)	Sneharika Roy, Sneharika Roy
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-117
Class Schedule	F: 09:00-10:20 in G-207 T: 13:45-15:05 in G-207	Office Hours	Fri 10:35 – 11:55 and on appointment
Credits	4	Email	sroy@aup.edu, sroy@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Economics and Business in Literature

Can business and balance sheets, merchants and marketing, lucre and bribes, inventories and IOUs really be the stuff of literature? From Sindbad the merchant-adventurer to Shylock the moneylender, from the girl-child consumer's participation in the Victorian marketplace in *Alice in Wonderland* to the exploitation of indentured labourers in the aftermath of slavery's abolition in Amitav Ghosh's *Sea of Poppies* – economics has been an enduring theme of literature across continents and centuries.

Focusing on the representation of business in literature will allow students to reflect on real-life concerns. Can the cold logic of a contract trump mercy? Must markets override morals? How does one negotiate the colonial association of "Commerce, Christianity, Civilisation"? Students will see that literature, with its rhetorical resources of ambiguity, ambivalence, and irony, presents us with nuanced and probing explorations of ideas put forward by thinkers like Adam Smith, Max Weber, and Karl Marx. By the end of this course, students will have consolidated their academic writing skills and will be able to craft outlines, frame thoughtful thesis statements, read theory, sift secondary sources, and produce solid research papers. They will also be capable of transferring these practices to other classes. The class will become a laboratory where students will experiment with economic concepts and theories, putting them to the test against the messy moral and psychological complexities of human existence.

Course Learning Outcomes

To learn to read even better, through consolidation and development of critical reading skills
To analyze stylistic and generic differences
To recognize historical and cultural contexts
As part of the general-education program, to evaluate major texts of world literature
To craft an independent, well-informed critical argument
To write essays, both under time pressure and with research content, as well as to present arguments orally
Formulate coherent, independent, well-informed critical arguments and present and defend them orally and in writing, both under time pressure and with research content (CCE LO1)
Improve the reading through the consolidation and development of critical reading skills while analyzing stylistic and generic differences (CCE LO2)
Use a variety of resources to conduct research and present the findings through writing while respecting the principle of academic integrity (CCE LO3)

General Education

For basic information about English as a general education requirement, please access the AUP webpage at:

<http://www.aup.edu/academics/undergraduate/general-education/speaking-world-language>

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course fulfills the second half of the "Research, Interpretation, and Writing" requirement of GLACC. (Learning Outcomes for GLACC components are defined on the [AUP GLACC Website](#)):

You will learn how to:

- formulate coherent, independent, well-informed critical arguments and present and defend them orally and in writing, both under time pressure and with research content;
- improve your reading through the consolidation and development of critical reading skills while analyzing stylistic and generic differences; and
- use a variety of resources to conduct research and present your findings through writing while respecting the principle of academic integrity.

Course Outline

JANUARY

Tue 19: Introduction. *Alliteration*

Fri 22: *Arabian Nights*: Close Readings. *Polypton*.

Readings: The frame tale (1-17) and the entire Sindbad cycle (140-178) of *Arabian Nights*

January 24th – last day to drop/add courses online

Tue 26: *Arabian Nights – An Economic Perspective*: The History of Money and Kinds of Exchange (gifts and commodity exchange). *Diacope*.

Arabian Nights Critical Material on BB

Fri 29: *Arabian Nights*: Researching contextual material, secondary sources

Reading: BB

FEBRUARY

Tue 2: *Arabian Nights*: Detailed outlines due.

Fri 5: **First in-class exam on** *Arabian Nights*

February 8th – 10th, Mini break 1, (no classes)

Tue 9: Break

Fri 12: *The Merchant of Venice*: Close Readings. *Hyperbaton*. *Arabian Nights* in-class essays returned

Reading: *The Merchant of Venice* (entire play)

Tue 16: *The Merchant of Venice: The History of Moneylending*. Searching for secondary sources on the AUP library website + compiling a bibliography

Readings: Critical Material on BB

Fri 19: *The Merchant of Venice* contd. In-class discussion of 1st tentative article choice from online databases. Rewrite of *Arabian Nights* in-class essay due by midnight via Blackboard.

February 24th – 28th, Mini break 2, (no classes)

Tue 23: *The Merchant of Venice* contd. Finalisation of article choice for in-class exam. Tentative choice for RP in view of abstract.

Fri 26: Break

MARCH

Tue 2: *The Merchant of Venice* contd. *Arabian Nights* rewrites returned. RP Abstract due.

Fri 5: **Second in-class exam on *Merchant of Venice*. Bring a print-out of your chosen article on *Merchant of Venice*.**

Tue 9: "Modest Proposal." RP outline due.

Reading: Online text via link on BB

Fri 12: Conferences in view of detailed outline

Tue 16: "Modest Proposal" contd. Detailed outline due. *Enallage*.

Reading: Start reading *Sea of Poppies* (1-120) in advance

Fri 19: Conferences in view of first draft of RP

Reading: *Sea of Poppies* (121-221) in advance

March 17th, Mid-semester

March 19th, Mid-semester grades due

Tue 23: "Modest Proposal" contd. *Metonymy and Synecdoche*. First draft of RP due.

Reading: *Sea of Poppies* (222-321)

Fri 26: *Sea of Poppies*: Indentured Labour

Reading: *Sea of Poppies* (322-422)

Tue 30: Conferences based on first draft.

Reading: *Sea of Poppies* (422-530)

Fri 2: *Sea of Poppies*: Deeti. First drafts returned.

April 2nd, last day to withdraw from a course.

Last day to choose the CR/NC grading option.

April 5th, Easter Monday (no classes)

April 6th, Faculty retreat (no classes)

Tue 6: Break

Fri 9: *Sea of Poppies*: Indentured labourers aboard the *Ibis*. Optional second draft of RP due.

Tue 13: *Sea of Poppies*: Free Trade.

Fri 16: *Alice in Wonderland*. Optional second draft returned.

Reading: *Alice in Wonderland* (Chapters 1 – 4)

Tue 20: *Alice in Wonderland*. RP due.

Reading: *Alice in Wonderland* (Chapters 5 – 8)

Fri 23: *Alice in Wonderland*.

Reading: *Alice in Wonderland* (Chapters 9 – 12)

Tue 27: Review. RP returned

April 28th, Last day of classes,

April 29th, – May 2nd, Reading days (May 1st, holiday)

May 3rd – 12th, Final Exam Days

FINAL EXAM: May 4, 2021 6:30PM May 26th, all grades due

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
4. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and through the Looking Glass	Carroll, Lewis	Penguin	9780141439761	Yes
2. The Merchant of Venice	Shakespeare, William	Oxford UP	9780199535859	Yes
1. The Arabian Nights Entertainments	Mack, Robert (editor)	Oxford UP	9780199555871	Yes
3. Sea of Poppies	Ghosh, Amitav	John Murray	9780719568978	Yes

Attendance Policy

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

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 also 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*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT:

As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

GRADING POLICY:

2 in-class essays (1st essay has a compulsory rewrite).....	20%
First draft of Research Paper.....	10%
Active in-class participation.....	20%.
Research Paper.....	30%
Final Exam.....	20%

Late assignments will be penalised. **No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class.**

This class does not allow work for extra credits.

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

A = Clearly planned, developed with original ideas and excellent written expression. Good thesis, strong argumentation, clean, i.e. proof-read paper.

B = Well organised, 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 a student's effort to improve or caught at cheating (plagiarism etc.)

Note: 1) A *plus* or *minus* may follow these letter grades at the instructor's discretion.

2) You must have an overall grade of C or higher to pass the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

After more than 4 unjustified absences and stark lack of participation (including tardy submissions or no submissions etc.), the professor may recommend that the student withdraw.

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.

Other
