

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Syllabus

**Title of the Course:** IED 485 (01) Contemporary English Novel (IV)

**Instructor:** Prof. Dr. Serpil OPPERMANN

**Year and Term:** 2014 Fall

**Class Hours and Rooms:** Friday 10:00-12:50 ZNG

**Aim and Content:** This course focuses on the English novel from the 1950s to the present. Major technical innovations, writing modes and themes that have emerged in the novel, especially after the 1960s, will be introduced within the context of postmodern social formations, fictional and theoretical developments and cultural debates in England. 1950s low-key social realism, The Movement, 1960s search for experimental modes of writing, the mark of postmodernism and its stylistic novelties in the 1970 and 1980s, the important mark of historiographic metafiction in the 1990s, and the emerging new hybrid formation, CLI-FI, or climate change fiction with its environmental themes and concerns, will be studied in depth. The primary reading of the course consists of 4 prescribed novels. The students are expected to study the critical writings of selected postmodernist theorists, and the emergent ecocritical approaches. The initial focus will be mainly on the concepts relating to postmodern novels, such as the use of self-reflexivity and self-consciousness, intertextuality, parody and pastiche, irony, play, process, textuality and fictionality. Postmodern approaches to representation and history, the paradoxes of fictive versus real, the use of ex-centric characters and narrators, the subversion of traditional modes of writing and the challenging of metanarratives will be studied in depth. In addition, cli-fi themes, such as global pollution, floods, storms, ocean acidification, disappearing species, rising levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air and extreme weather events brought on by climate change will be discussed.

Novels to be studied:

John Fowles- *Mantissa*

Jeanette Winterson- *Boating for Beginners*

Peter Ackroyd- *Hawksmoor*

Maggie Gee- *The Ice People*

**Course Outline:**

**Week I - II:** Introduction to the social and cultural background in the 1950s and 1960s: (The Movement and the Angry Young Men) Realist conventions

**Week III:** Introduction to Postmodernism in fiction, and the subversion of Realist Conventions.

Reading Material:

Tim Woods. "Introduction" (pp.1-17) and chapter 3 "Postmodernism and the Literary Arts" (pp.49-68) in Tim Woods. *Beginning Postmodernism*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1999.

Roland Barthes. "The Death of the Author." *Falling into Theory: Conflicting Views on Reading Literature*. Ed. David H. Richter. Boston: Bedford Books, 1994. (pp. 222-226).

Articles:

John Barth: "The Literature of Exhaustion"

**Week IV-V:** Metafiction in Britain, and John Fowles's Mantissa (metafictional games and strategies)

Reading Material:

Patricia Waugh. "What is Metafiction" and chapter 2 "Literary Self-consciousness" (pp.1-61) in Patricia Waugh. *Metafiction: The Theory and Practice of Self-Conscious Fiction*. New York: Methuen, 1984.

Raymond Federman. Chapter 3 "Surfiction: A Postmodern Position" (pp. 35-47) in Raymond Federman. *Critifiction: Postmodern Essays*. Albany: State U. of New York P, 1993.

**Week VI-VII:** Jeanette Winterson's *Boating for Beginners* ( postmodern parody,irony,and intertextuality)

Reading Material:

Linda Hutcheon. "Historiographic Metafiction: Parody and the Intertextuality of History,"

**Week VII:** Midterm I

**Week VIII-IX-:** Historiographic Metafiction, Peter Ackroyd's *Hawksmoor*,

Reading Material:

Linda Hutcheon .Chapter 7 "Historiographic Metafiction" (pp.105-123) in Linda Hutcheon. *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*. 1988. New York: Routledge,1990.

Linda Hutcheon . Chapter 3 "Re-presenting the past" in Linda Hutcheon.*The Politics of Postmodernism*. 1989. New York: Routledge,1991.

Raymond Federman: *Critifiction*

Articles:

Susana Onega: "British Historiographic Metafiction in the 1980s;"

Linda Hutcheon: "The Pastime of Past Time: Fiction, History, Historiographic Metafiction;" Hayden White: "The Fictions of Factual Representation;" "The Historical Text as a Literary Artifact."

Hayden White: "The Historical text as a Literary Artifact."

Serpil Oppermann: "Historicist Inquiry in the New Historicism and British Historiographic Metafiction." *Hacettepe Universitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Dergisi* 15. 1. 1998. 39-52

Serpil Oppermann: "The Interplay Between Historicism and Textuality: Postmodern Histories." *PostModerne Diskurse zwischen Sprache und Macht*. Eds. Johannes Angermüller and Martin Nonhoff. Hamburg, Berlin: Argument Verlag, 1999. 154-163.

**Week XII:** Midterm II

**Week XIII:** Maggie Gee's *The Ice People* (cli-fi fiction)

Reading Material:

Zalasiewicz, et al. "Are We Now Living in the Anthropocene." *GSA Today* 18.2 (2008)

Elizabeth Kolbert. "Enter the Anthropocene—Age of Man." *National Geographic Magazine*

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2011/03/age-of-man/kolbert-text>

Andrew Revkin, "Confronting the Anthropocene," *The New York Times*. May 11, 2011

"Welcome to the Anthropocene: A planet Transformed by Humanity."

<http://www.anthropocene.info/en/anthropocene>

<sup>1</sup>Editorial: "The Anthropocene," 27 February (2011). See: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/28/opinion/28mon4.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/28/opinion/28mon4.html?_r=0)

**Week XIV:** Overview of the recent developments

**Method of Instruction:** Interactive: Lectures and student discussions with 10 minute presentations on specific topics from the novels.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1. Students are responsible for the assigned texts.

**Assessment:** There will be TWO Midterm exams (50%) and a Final Exam (50%). Students will also submit position papers of maximum 3 pages using MLA Style, which will bring a bonus of 10%.

**The passing grade in the Final is 50.**

In grading the exam papers 25% of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical mistakes and writing errors.

**Recommended Reading :**

1. Alison Lee: *Realism and Power: Postmodern British Fiction*

2. Brenda K. Marshall: *Teaching the Postmodern: Fiction and Theory*
3. Bran Nicol: *The Cambridge Introduction to Postmodern Fiction*

Articles: (will be provided)

Linda Hutcheon: "Historiographic Metafiction: Parody and the Intertextuality of History;" "Pastime of Past Time: Fiction, History, Historiographic Metafiction."

Hayden White: "The Historical text as a Literary Artifact."

Susan Onega: " British Historiographic Metafiction in the 1980s."

Web page for Cli-Fi: <http://eco-fiction.com/climate-fiction/>