

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

#### Lecture course 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature (19th-21st centuries) (2AN1401)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Prof. Patrick Vincent

#### Contenu

Notice: This course alternates every year between British and American Literature. In Autumn 2019, the course will be on American literature.

(upon authorization of the instructor, students can follow the two lectures for credit)

#### Option 1: Introduction to Modern and Contemporary British Literature

This lecture is an introduction to British, and very briefly, post-colonial literature from 1790 onwards. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were marked by profound political, economic, social and scientific upheavals. Beginning with the Revolution in France, the course will provide an overview of the four major periods in modern cultural history, including Romanticism, the Victorian Age, Modernism, and, briefly, Post-Modernism. Special attention will be placed on the sources of modern self, on the relations between self, society and culture, and on the place of culture in discourses of nation and empire. Readings have been chosen from the Norton anthology based on their relevance to the themes of the lecture, but also to the BA exam reading list. Students will be expected to acquire a basic knowledge of British history and geography in this period.

#### Option 2: Introduction to American Literature

An overview of American literature, history, society and culture from the first explorers to the end of the twentieth century, this lecture will test the idea of an American literary canon and of a representative American self against a variety of fictional and non-fictional texts. Classical American literary history was constructed around an exceptionalist ideology derived from Puritan culture and that is today identified with the "American dream." We will see how this cultural history was formed, and how the recent opening of the canon to underrepresented voices, including those of Native- and African-Americans, has challenged it. Readings have been chosen from the Norton anthology based on their relevance to the themes of the lecture, but also to the BA exam reading list. Students will be expected to acquire a basic grounding in American history and geography

#### OBJECTIFS D'APPRENTISSAGE

- To become familiar with literary history (including periodization) and with some of the historical, social and cultural contexts, which have helped shape modern British and / or American literature.
- To become familiar with a selection of literary genres (poetry, fiction, drama, nonfictional prose).
- To become familiar with some secondary literature and critical problems.
- To develop textual analysis and comparative-reading skills.
- To examine some theoretical questions associated with modernity, including the role of culture in society, and / or the role of class, race, and gender in identity formation.
- To understand and discuss the period critically.

#### COMPETENCES TRANSFERABLES

oral discussion skills in English  
close reading skills  
critical thinking skills  
general knowledge in history and culture

#### Forme de l'évaluation

- Ex. 030: thirty-minute oral exam during the exam session based on material studied in the course and on an individualized reading list based on the BA exam reading list. A hand-out explaining the exam will be distributed in the beginning of the semester.
- 1 or 2 short, unmarked multiple-choice type exams during the semester to test your preparedness for the exam.

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**Documentation**

In alternate years:

- The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 8th or 9th edition, volume 2
- The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter 7th or 8th edition

(Several copies will be made available in the B.1.48 alvéole. Please note that they are for scanning or in-library reading purposes only and cannot be removed from the library)

**Pré-requis**

First-year courses (PP1-PP3)

**Forme de l'enseignement**

Lecture (Cours), with active student involvement.