

HUMA 1300

***Introduction to Western Literature
Literature and Revolution***

Fall 2018

Time:	Tuesday and Thursday:	10:30 – 11:50
Venue:	1104	
Instructor:	Xiaolu Ma	Rm.3377; hmxlma@ust.hk
Office hours:	Tuesday and Thursday:	16:30 – 17:30 (Or by appointment)
TA:	Song Han	song.han@connect.ust.hk

Course Description

This course will introduce students to methods of reading modern western literary texts in English. Its focus is on fiction and poetry. Students will learn to analyze the artistic and imaginative use of language and develop the ability to think critically.

This course provides a “big picture” survey of revolution and modern literature.

We focus on key revolutionary moments in the history of Western countries. Texts chosen will be those exploring the varied cultural connotations of revolution and the relationship between literature and politics. Since literature is a window on culture and humanity, the course aims to deepen students’ understanding of people from different cultures and the complexity of life.

Intended learning outcomes:

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. identify the characteristics of a specific literary genre
2. analyze the themes in a literary work
3. appreciate how an author’s artistic treatment helps convey ideas and feelings in a text

Syllabus and Schedule

Week 1-2

Unit 1. Introduction

Byron, “Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte”, “Prometheus”

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Works_of_Lord_Byron_\(ed._Coleridge,_Prothero\)/Poetry/Volume_4/Prometheus](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Works_of_Lord_Byron_(ed._Coleridge,_Prothero)/Poetry/Volume_4/Prometheus)

P.B. Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound* (Act 1)

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Prometheus_Unbound

Week 3-4

Unit 2. Shadows of Revolution

Hugo, Victor. *Ninety-Three*. (Book III THE MASSACRE OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW)

<https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Ninety-three>

Conrad, Joseph. *The Duel*. (Chapter 2)

<http://www.online-literature.com/conrad/3123/>

Week 5-7

Unit 3. Utopia and Dystopia

Chernyshevsky, Nikolai. *What Is to Be Done?* (An Extraordinary Man)

Orwell, George. *1984: A Novel*. (Chapter 1)

Week 8

Unit 4. Trauma

Kundera, Milan. *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*. (Chapter 4)

Week 9-11

Unit 5. Symbolism and Modernism

Jean-Luc Godard, *La Chinoise*, 1967

Bely, Andrey. *Petersburg: A Novel in Eight Chapters*. (selected chapters)

Week 12

Unit 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*. (Chapter 3)

Week 13

Presentation

Assessment

Class Participation	5%
In-class quiz	25%
Final Group Presentation	35%
Final Examination	35%

Requirements

You are expected to attend all classes and stay for the entire class. I measure class participation based on the following criteria: arriving to class on time, completing required reading (30 pages per week), engaging in class discussion, and respectfully listening when your classmates speak.

Academic Honesty

Acts of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Please go to our university webpage on academic dishonesty policy (<http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/index.html>), and read definitions of plagiarism and acts of dishonesty. Acts of dishonesty will lead to a failing grade in this course.