

Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ENGE1610 Introduction to Literature

Instructor

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Office Hours: by appointment

About the Course

How to read and why? This course helps students develop the confidence and skills to read, interpret, and write about literature. Through collaborative reading, we will explore the characteristics and conventions of the major genres—fiction, poetry, and drama. We will also delineate connections in diverse treatments of universal themes across contexts, including love and death, and power and language. Readings representing a broad range of times, places, cultures, and styles will be discussed, so that you can appreciate the transformative and inventive possibilities of words. It is hoped that by the end of the course, you can construct productive relationships between the world, the text, and the critic.

Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this course you shall be able to:

- organise and translate first impressions of literary works into analysis
- form, articulate, and develop responses to texts
- acquire and use extensively an analytical vocabulary of formal elements of fiction, poetry, and drama
- investigate, discuss and write critically, reflectively, and analytically

Set Texts*

Kelly J. Mays, ed. *The Norton Introduction to Literature Shorter 13th Edition*
Athol Fugard, *The Island*
Franz Kafka, “Metamorphosis”

*All texts will be available on Blackboard.

Course Assessment

Lecture and tutorial attendance, preparation and participation 10%
Tutorial presentation 20%
Mid-term quiz 30%
Podcast transcript 40%

Grade Descriptors

Grade A / Excellent: Outstanding performance on ALL learning outcomes.

Demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would surpass the normal expectations at this level and typical of standards that may be common at higher levels of study. The 'A' grade should be reserved for truly excellent work that exceeds the level expected for the majority of students and are expected to be achieved only by a small minority.

Grade A- / Very Good: Generally outstanding performance on ALMOST ALL learning outcomes.

Demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would fully fulfill the normal expectations at this level and occasionally reaches standards that may be common at higher levels of study.

Grade B+ / Good (Plus): HIGH performance on all learning outcomes, OR HIGH performance on some learning outcomes which compensates WELL for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

Demonstrates the ability to apply WELL the principles or skills learned in the course in a comprehensive manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level WELL.

Grade B / Good: SUBSTANTIAL performance on all learning outcomes, OR SUBSTANTIAL performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a MORE COMPREHENSIVE manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level.

Grade B- / Good (Minus): GOOD performance on all learning outcomes, OR GOOD performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a COMPREHENSIVE manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level.

Grade C+ / Fair (Plus): VERY SATISFACTORY performance on the majority of learning outcomes.

Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a SOMEWHAT SUSTAINED manner that would meet the basic requirement at this level.

Grade C / Fair: SATISFACTORY performance on the majority of learning outcomes.

Demonstrates the ability to partially apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would meet the basic requirement at this level.

Grade C- / Fair (Minus): SOMEWHAT SATISFACTORY performance on A NUMBER OF learning outcomes.

Demonstrates the ability to SOMEWHAT apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would meet the BARE basic requirement at this level.

Grade D+ / Pass (Plus): BARELY SATISFACTORY performance on A FEW learning outcomes.

Addresses the course inadequately by meeting the basic requirement at this level only in some areas while responding minimally with possibly tangential content in others.

Grade D / Pass: ALMOST BARELY satisfactory performance on VERY FEW learning outcomes.

Addresses the course inadequately by meeting the basic requirement at this level only in very few areas while responding very minimally with possibly tangential content in others.

Grade F / Failure: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Fails to address the course and likely does not understand what the course requires. In other words, the work completely misses the point.