



Travel and English Literature

Module Coordinator	Dr Bjorn Quiring, School of English (Semester 1) Dr Ema Vyroubalova, School of English (Semester 2)
What will you learn from this Elective?	<p>What do we understand by the term 'literature'? What do we mean by 'travel'? How do we go about interpreting literary works of the past and the present?</p> <p>Drawing upon the expertise of the School of English across a wide range of literatures in English, this module will offer students from outside the discipline an opportunity to develop as informed and alert readers, as well as the chance to study a diverse group of stimulating texts. We live in a world where issues of travel dominate the headlines – refugee crises on land and sea in different parts of the world, immigration policy and the treatment of migrants, Brexit and the Irish border, and the global pandemic. This module is positioned within the cultural context of both past and present societal challenges and, throughout, you will explore the multiple ways in which English literature from different historical periods engages with ideas of travel.</p>
Student Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11x1 hour lectures• Approximately 55 hours of independent learning and preparation for lectures: Includes preparatory reading online and in library; listening to assigned podcasts and watching online material.• Approximately 20 hours of group activities: preparing and uploading material for online presentation and responding to other groups' presentations.• Approximately 40 hours of assessment preparation: Students will be required to write and submit a critical essay for assessment
Assessment Components	<p>- Essay writing - 100% of total grade.</p> <p>Through this independent research project, students will analyse in detail one or more texts and themes from the module, relate their discussions to broader cultural debates and societal challenges past and present, and reflect critically on the module content as a whole.</p> <p>Word count: 2000 words</p> <p>Students will also be required to complete a formative assignment (group project). This assignment will not form part of the final grade, however, students must complete all elements of the formative assignment in order to pass the module.</p>

Indicative Reading List

You will read approximately nine texts, as well as critical and theoretical material, across the semester. The themes and texts will change/rotate each year to facilitate staffing and to develop content. NB: A final reading list will be provided before the start of each term.

A final reading list might include texts such as the following - Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (anonymous, c. 1350-1400); No Friend But the Mountains (Behrouz Boochani, 2018), The Time Machine (H. G. Wells, 1895) ; The History and Topography of Ireland (Gerard of Wales, c. 1188); The Interpreter of Maladies (Jhumpa Lahiri, 1999); The Duel (Richard Matheson, 1971); The Road to Wigan Pier (George Orwell, 1937); The Tempest (William Shakespeare, c.1610-11).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Discuss, evaluate, and reflect critically on the representation of travel in a wide range of English language literary texts from diverse societies and across several centuries.
2. Relate textual analysis to broader contemporary cultural debates and societal challenges around the world.
3. Draw upon online resources to facilitate the exploration of the societal challenges of travel, past and present, and local and global.
4. Use a range of methodologies and reflect critically on the works of authors from diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.
5. Develop collaborative and communication skills through online and group projects and take responsibility for their own learning experiences.
6. Question Eurocentric approaches to understanding terms such as 'societal' and 'challenges'.
7. Develop existing critical and analytical skills, become empowered citizens, develop continuously, and think beyond the confines of 'learning outcomes'.

