



## Course Syllabus

**Course Number / Meeting Times / Location:**

ENGL 314-01 / UTR 3:00-3:50 / B311

**Course Title:** Modernism and Postmodernism

**Office Hours:** UTR 12-2 pm ([chat](#) or [appointment](#))

**Instructor:** Dr. Hanan Muzaffar

**Office Location:** B530

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**AUK Mission Statement:**

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution dedicated to teaching, learning, and scholarship. The University offers programs that provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for lifelong learning and professional success. AUK enriches society by fostering an environment that encourages critical thinking, effective communication, personal growth, service, and leadership.

**Department/College Mission Statement:**

In keeping with the American University of Kuwait's liberal arts tradition, the English Department provides students with the ability to use the English language effectively, think critically, cultivate a lifelong process of inquiry, and reach their full potential as creative individuals and engaged citizens. Through its emphasis on developing cultural awareness, rhetorical flexibility, information literacy, and appreciation for literary traditions, the department prepares students for the increasingly complex challenges of the 21st century.

**Course Description:**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century marks a break from established traditions and expectations that manifests itself in modern art and literature and continues into what is termed as the postmodern. This course looks at key elements that shaped these movements in the west, and the historical, philosophical, and cultural background that enabled them. We will read 3 novels, 2 plays, and a variety of poems, in addition to a selection of articles that facilitate a richer understanding of them. You should also expect to write short essays and a longer research paper, present on one of the articles, and take in-class quizzes and exams to ensure familiarity with the content.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):**

PLO1	Recognize a wide range of literary works of world cultures, sub-cultures, and minority groups.
PLO2	Compare and contrast texts produced in different periods and genres.
PLO3	Identify and discuss representative authors, works and movements.
PLO4	Analyze cultural and literary texts using theory.
PLO5	Develop independent thought and judgment to carry out research projects.
PLO6	Develop and communicate ideas clearly in writing.
PLO7	Evaluate cultural and literary texts within socio-political, historical, and economic contexts.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs): TBD****Corresponding PLO:**

CLO1	Develop historical, literary and philosophical understanding of key themes in modernism and postmodernism.	PLO2, PLO7
CLO2	Relate modern and postmodern literature to the ideas of the age.	PLO2, PLO6, PLO7
CLO3	Identify major works in modern and postmodern literature.	PLO3
CLO4	Analyze modern and postmodern elements in works of literature.	PLO4, PLO5, PLO6
CLO5	Conduct critical inquiry in modern and postmodern literature.	PLO5, PLO6, PLO7

**Course Delivery/Methodology:**

Class meets for 50 minutes, 3 times a week, over a duration of 15 weeks. Course material, inclusive of required readings, assignments, and grading rubrics will be posted on Moodle. Assignments must be submitted through Moodle unless otherwise instructed. To successfully complete this course, attend regularly, read instructions diligently, participate in class, and submit all assignments in due time.

**Textbooks:** *ensure purchase of the version available at the AUK bookstore*

- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce, 1916
- *To the Lighthouse*, Virginia Woolf, 1927
- *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Becket, 1953
- *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut, 1969
- *Serious Money*, Caryl Churchill, 1987

**Secondary Sources:**

- “What is Enlightenment,” Immanuel Kant, 1784, [online](#)
- *The Genealogy of Morals*, Friedrich Nietzsche, 1887, [online](#)
- *Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men*, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1755, [online](#)
- “Estranged Labor,” Karl Mark, 1844, [online](#)
- *Civilization and Its Discontent*, Sigmund Freud, 1929, AUK Library
- *The Postmodern Condition*, Jean-Francois Lyotard, 1979, AUK Library
- “What is Enlightenment,” Michel Foucault, 1984, [online](#)
- “You May,” Slavoj Žižek, 1999, [online](#)
- *Thinking in Literature: Joyce, Woolf, Nabokov*, Anthony Uhlman, 2011, AUK Library
- *The Columbia History of the British Novel*, John Richette, 1994, [AUK Library ProQuest](#)
- Selection of articles to support the reading will be provided in class

**Evaluations and Grading:**

Evaluation Type	Weight	Corresponding CLO
Class Participation	10%	CLO1, CLO6
Presentation	10%	CLO2, CLO3, CLO6
Quizzes	20%	CLO2, CLO3, CLO5
Essays	20%	CLO2, CLO6
Midterm	20%	CLO2, CLO6
Final paper	20%	CLO2, CLO3, CLO5, CLO6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>CLO2, CLO6</b>

**AUK Official Grading Scale:**

Letter Grade	Percentage	Univ. Points	Letter Grade	Percentage	Univ. Points
A	94-100	4.0	C	74-76	2.0
A-	90-93	3.7	C-	70-73	1.7
B+	87-89	3.3	D+	67-69	1.3
B	84-86	3.0	D	64-66	1.0
B-	80-83	2.7	D-	60-63	0.7
C+	77-79	2.3	F	0-59	0.0

**AUK Attendance Policy:**

Any student who misses more than 15% of class sessions of any course during a semester should expect to fail, unless she/he submits documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. If excused, students are required to satisfy all coursework due or assigned during their absence as determined by the course instructor. If a student does not submit documented evidence for her/his absence exceeding the limit, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the specified deadline, as indicated on the academic calendar. Students who withdraw from a course receive a grade of "W". Students who do not withdraw from a course nor submit supporting documents for excessive absences will receive a grade of "FN" (failure for non-attendance).

**Code of Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

Upon admission to the American University of Kuwait, students agree to act responsibly in all areas of academic, personal and social conduct and to take full responsibility for their individual and collective action. Such regulations are found in the American University of Kuwait Catalogue, Student Handbook, and the AUK website at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw). Any question of interpretation regarding the code of academic honesty and Integrity shall be reported to the appropriate academic dean. The Code shall be reviewed annually at the discretion of the academic deans. Any student or student organization found to have committed the cited violations or misconduct, either on or off campus, is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in adjudication procedures

**Plagiarism:**

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, an attempt of an individual to claim the work of another as the product of his or her own thoughts regardless of whether that work has been published. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting improperly or paraphrasing text or other written materials without proper citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written material submitted to an instructor as one's own work. Plagiarism also includes handing in a paper to an instructor that was purchased from a term paper service or downloaded from the Internet and presenting another person's academic work as one's own.

**Cheating:**

The term "cheating" includes but is not limited to, copying homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual on a take-home test or homework when not approved by the instructor, looking at and/or copying text, notes or another person's paper during an examination when not permitted to do so. Cheating also includes the giving of work information to another student to be copied and/or used as his or her own. This includes but is not limited to giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; informing another student of specific questions that appear or have appeared on an exam in the same academic semester; giving or selling a term paper, report, project or other restricted written materials to another student.

**Academic Support:**

- **Library:** The AUK Library provides you with the necessary support to conduct research and find additional readings for your class work. Need to research but don't know where to start? Not sure how to find and use online resources (books, data, articles...etc.)? Not sure how to cite a source or develop a reference list? Ask a librarian! Research help is available through email, MS Teams, Zoom. Contact the library at: [library@auk.edu.kw](mailto:library@auk.edu.kw) or go to <https://www.auk.edu.kw/academics/Library> to begin your search!
- **Writing and Tutoring Center:** The Writing and Tutoring Center (WTC) focuses on empowering students to become independent and successful learners by developing their literacy skills, enhancing their understanding, and helping them improve their academic and study skills. WTC offers tutoring and writing consultations to all AUK students. Students can

schedule appointments through the [TutorTrac](#) online appointment system, or email [wtc@auk.edu.kw](mailto:wtc@auk.edu.kw) for assistance.

- **Disability Accommodations:** AUK provides equal and inclusive educational environment in order to enable all students to meet and perform requisite academic standards and to participate in the opportunities and activities of its community. If you believe you can benefit from accommodations for a learning, physical, or mental health disability, [click here to book a session through the Counseling Center/Disability Services Booking Page](#), to ask about disability services at AUK, initiate an accommodation plan, or receive disability services. You can also email [counseling@auk.edu.kw](mailto:counseling@auk.edu.kw) if you need assistance in booking a session.

#### **Course Policies:**

- Respect classmates and instructor:
  - do not take pictures or videos in class; it is prohibited
  - arrive on time; late arrivals will not be admitted
  - your grade is a private matter between you and instructor
  - do not bargain for grades, regardless of the reason; it is not professional
- Be studious and professional:
  - always carry A4 sized paper and pen in class; you might be asked to write
  - take notes in class; your performance in class, quizzes, and papers depend on it
  - adhere to MLA format in all work submitted for class, whether typed or hand-written
  - do not resubmit work from and to other classes, whether fully or partially

#### **Late/Missing Work Policy:**

Work is to be submitted on time. If circumstances prevent prompt submission, send an email explaining the issue. When possible, late submission will be allowed, for a penalty of up to 10% of the grade. Late work will not be accepted if one full week passes from due date.

#### **Communication Policy:**

Send proper emails in communicating with instructor, using your official AUK email account, and indicating course and section number, and subject of email (in subject line). If you have a question, check the syllabus and Moodle first for an answer before sending an email. Emails that do not abide by this will be ignored.

#### **Technology Issues:**

All assignments must be submitted through Moodle unless otherwise stated. If you experience trouble submitting an assignment due to technology or internet issues, send the assignment via email by the deadline.

#### **Syllabus Changes:**

There may be changes to the schedule and syllabus during the semester. When this happens, I will inform you in class and over email.

#### **Weekly Schedule:**

Week 1: 5 Feb: Introductions, Syllabus, Assignments Explained  
Week 2: 12 Feb: Historical/Philosophical Background (**Quiz 1**)  
Week 3: 19 Feb (Sunday Off): James Joyce (**Essay 1**)  
**National Holiday Week: 26 Feb**  
Week 4: 5 Mar: James Joyce (**Quiz 2**)  
Week 5: 12 Mar: Virginia Woolf (**Essay 2**)  
Week 6: 19 Mar: Virginia Woolf (**Quiz 3**)  
Week 7: 26 Mar: Preparing research paper  
Week 8: 2 Apr: Midterm Activities (**Essay Tuesday, Quiz Thursday**)  
Week 9: 9 Apr: Samuel Becket (**Essay 4**)  
Week 10: 16 Apr: Samuel Becket (**Quiz 4**)

**Eid Holiday Week: 23 Apr**

Week 11: 30 Apr: Kurt Vonnegut (**Essay 5**)

Week 12: 7 May: Kurt Vonnegut (**Quiz 5**) & **Proposal & Outline** conferences with instructor

Week 13: 14 May: Caryl Churchill (**Essay 6**) & **Proposal & Outline** conferences with instructor

Week 14: 21 May: Caryl Churchill (**Quiz 6**)

Week 15: 28 May: Modernism versus Postmodernism (**Essay 7**) & **Final Paper** due end of week

**Tasks & Grading, explained:**

1. **Class Participation 10%:** Arrive to class on time, prepared with reading the assigned text and reviewing your notes from previous classes, in order to participate in class discussion. Though you are always encouraged to learn more about the text at hand, you are to read the actual text first, and not rely on summaries, movies, or study aids as a replacement to the primary texts assigned. For each reading, keep notes on the main characters appearing in the section, major events, narrative voice, setting, stylistic and language elements of importance, and any other notes that can help you maintain a clear guide to the text, and participate and contribute to class discussion. At times and as deemed fit by instructor, brief in-class writing assignments are given in class, so always come on time and prepared with pen and paper.
2. **Presentation 10%:** You will select your presentation day during week 1. Moodle will be updated with the article assigned for your day 2 weeks ahead of time. Read the article carefully to identify its main arguments and its supporting ideas, underlying important lines to read and explain to the audience. Prepare a **one-page handout** ([see sample](#)) to help you present and distribute it before your presentation, emailing a copy to instructor for uploading on Moodle. There will be no other visual aids, but you are expected to present the article **in 5 minutes only**, while facing that class (not in your own seat). Refer to “W-6c Delivering a Presentation” in [Excerpts from \*The Little Seagull Handbook\*](#), pages 23-24, for guidance. Grading is based on the following, 2 points each:
  - Prepared: rehearsed and ready to present on time and within time limit (5 minutes)
  - Engaged: attentive to audience through eye contact, body language, and voice
  - Clear: organized, and uses good grammar and pronunciation
  - Informed: delivers content well, and able to respond to audience questions
  - Handout made available to instructor and audience, and meets requirement (1 page)
3. **Essays 20%:** For each text, you will write a 3-5 page (900-1500 words) essay before it is discussed in class. The essay must have a strong claim, supported by analysis of at least 3 passages from the work of literature. There will also be a general essay at the end of the term where you are expected to bring all your reading experiences in one paper. Refer to “W-11 Literary Analysis” in [Excerpts from \*The Little Seagull Handbook\*](#), pages 30-32, to learn more about writing literary essays, and the [Academic Paper Rubric](#) to ensure your paper meets requirements. Visit the Writing Center with this rubric if you believe your writing requires assistance. There will be a peer-review activity done in class. After uploading your essay to Moodle, print it along with the rubric, fill in the information on top of the rubric, and bring both to class on the first day the book is to be discussed. [See sample shorter essay](#). Grading is based both on your own essay, and your review of another essay. If you miss class on that day, there will be no make-ups, however, as only the best 4 essays are counted towards the final grade, missing two will not be a problem.
4. **Quizzes 20%:** There will be a total of 6 quizzes following each component studied, as outlined in weekly syllabus. The quizzes are based on class explanation and discussion. This is open book/notebook, with no digital aids allowed. As such, taking notes in class is essential to ensure your success in these quizzes. Taking notes in preparation for the quizzes is also important to ensure you have all that you need in your notebook during the quiz. As with the essays, if you miss class on that day, there will be no make-ups, however, as only the best 4 quizzes are counted towards the final grade, missing two will not be a problem.

5. **Midterm 20%:** As our class meets for 50 minutes only, midterm will be broken into 2 days.
  - a. Essay 10%: **April 4<sup>th</sup>**. There will be 3 prompts to choose from, and answer in an essay of 2 pages. This is open book/notebook, with no digital aids allowed.
  - b. Q&A 10%: **April 6<sup>th</sup>**. This is similar to and derived from the quizzes and class discussions, but not open book.
  
6. **Research Paper 20%:** A 2400-3000 word research paper that analyzes a modern or postmodern text not covered in class, supported by at least 3 secondary peer-reviewed sources from the AUK Library. Check the links below for help. The submission is separated as follows:
  - a. Proposal 10%: print for discussion over a **one-on-one meeting booked through appointment link during weeks 11 & 12 (7 May to 18 May)**. Document includes the following, with 2 points for each item. [See sample](#) for guidance:
    - i. Background: explains reason for choosing the primary source and topic, and how this relates to class, in 100-200 words
    - ii. Title & Thesis: title is clear and specific to topic and text analyzed, with claim and method of delivery indicated in thesis statement
    - iii. Arguments: lists at least 3 supporting arguments, broken up into a few sub-ideas each, and indicating where and what sources might be used for most of these ideas
    - iv. Annotated bibliography: lists at least 3 peer-reviewed sources, annotated with brief summary of main arguments of source, and explanation of how it can benefit the paper
    - v. Form: uses academic language and proper format**You cannot proceed with writing the final paper until we meet and discuss the proposal, and you receive my approval to proceed**
  - b. Paper 10%: **due end of last week 15, June 1<sup>st</sup>**. [See sample paper based on above outline](#). Grading explained in [Academic Paper Rubric](#)

**Keys to success:**

- Visit the Library for help in conducting research
- Visit the Writing Center for help with the writing process
- Consult [Academic Paper Rubric](#) for help organizing your paper
- Consult [Excerpts from The Little Seagull Handbook](#) for help with writing process (3-8), developing paragraphs (9-19), giving presentations (20-24), arguments (25-29), and literary analysis (30-32)
- Consult [Excerpts from Reading the World](#) for help structuring ideas with introductions (2-6), thesis statements (7-10), transitions (11-16), and conclusions (17-19)
- Review notes and grading on all submitted assignments before proceeding to the next one. [Learn how to do this on Turnitin here](#).