

Creative Writing

Dr Kieron Winn and Dr Alice Stainer

The aim of this course is to sharpen the students' awareness of writing as a craft through close readings of exemplary texts across a variety of genres. Principles studied in seminars will then be applied practically in the students' own writing for the tutorials. In the field of prose we shall read short stories and novel openings with an eye to adaptable techniques. In poetry we shall look at a ballad, at how meaning is partly created by sound and rhythm, and at how random sound elements, such as rhyme, generate sense in a way that allows the writer to say things that are both surprising and true.

Seminar specific learning outcomes

Students who have taken this seminar will:

- have acquired a variety of new literary techniques
- have deepened their knowledge of classic literature
- have sharpened their close reading skills
- have developed their ability to contribute to group discussion about creative writing

Required reading (listed in the order in which the works will be considered in discussion classes)

S.T. Coleridge, 'The rime of the ancient mariner' (1798) in *Selected Poetry* (Penguin or Oxford World's Classics); also here

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173253>

J. Conrad, *The secret agent* (1907), Penguin or Oxford World's Classics edns; also here <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/c/conrad/joseph/c75sa/>

T. S. Eliot, 'The love song of J. Alfred Prufrock' (1917) in *Selected Poems* (Faber); also here <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poem/173476>

J. Joyce, *Dubliners* (1914), Penguin or Oxford World's Classics edns; also here <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/j/joyce/james/j8d/index.html>

P. Larkin, 'Love songs in age', 'Faith healing'

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/philip-larkin#about>

L. Sterne, *Tristram Shandy* (1759–67), vol. 1, Penguin or Oxford World's Classics edns; also here <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/sterne/laurence/s83l/>

V. Woolf, *To the lighthouse* (1927), Penguin or Oxford World's Classics edns; also here <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91t/index.html>

W.B. Yeats, 'Sailing to Byzantium' and 'Byzantium'

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/william-butler-yeats#about>

Recommended reading list

J. Booth, *Philip Larkin: life, art and love* (2014)

P. Conrad, *The Everyman history of English literature* (1985)

R. Ellmann, *Yeats: the man and the masks* (2000)

R. Holmes, *Coleridge: early visions* (2005)

T. Keymer, *The Cambridge companion to Laurence Sterne* (2009)

S. Sellers, ed., *The Cambridge companion to Virginia Woolf* (2010)

B.C. Southam, *A student's guide to the selected poems of T.S. Eliot* (1994)

J.H. Stape, ed., *The Cambridge companion to Joseph Conrad* (2014)

A. Thacker, ed., *Dubliners* (New Casebooks) (2005)