

The 20th Century Novel

BA in English Literature

Alzahra University

Instructor: Dr. M. Hoorvash

Semester: 97-2 (2018-2019)

<http://staff.alzahra.ac.ir/hoorvash/en>

Objectives:

- The students become familiar with the historical and literary contexts surrounding the 20th century novel.
- The students read the selected novels and engage in in-depth analysis of them.
- Glimpses to certain theoretical frameworks are provided for the students to help them come to different readings of a single novel.
- The main goal of the course is to improve the students' critical understanding of literature and life in general through reading and discussing novels.
- The students manage to improve their GE by means of the vocabulary lists provided for them for each novel.

Reading:

- 1- *The Great Gatsby*- F. Scott Fitzgerald (sessions 3-5)
- 2- *Franny and Zooey*- J. D. Salinger (sessions 6-7)
- 3- *Lord of the Flies*- William Golding (sessions 8-9)
- 4- *Cat's Cradle*- Kurt Vonnegut (sessions 10-12)
- 5- *The Bluest Eye*- Toni Morrison (sessions 13-15)

Also, the students are supposed to use the secondary reading materials available to them through the Dropbox link I send them at the beginning of the semester.

Evaluation:

Class activity (participation, preparation, assignments, etc.): 30%

Final exam: 70%

Syllabus:

week	Topic	The Novel
1	Introduction to the course	
2	The 20 th Century in UK and US	
3	The roaring 20s	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
4	The power of ideology	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
5	A glimpse to psychoanalysis	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
6	About Salinger and his time	<i>Franny and Zooey</i>
7	The crisis of faith	<i>Franny and Zooey</i>
8	War fiction	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
9	Close reading practice	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
10	Postmodernism in theory	<i>Cat's Cradle</i>
11	Utopias and dystopias	<i>Cat's Cradle</i>
12	Deconstructing faith	<i>Cat's Cradle</i>
13	African American literature	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>
14	Magical realism	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>
15	Fashion, politics and the body	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>
16	The future of the novel: E-Lit	