

School of English, Film, Theatre and Media Studies

Summer Trimester 2006/2007

ENGL 115

LITERATURE AND VISUAL MEDIA

Tue, Wed, Thur 3-5 pm

Nov 14-30, Jan 9-25.

Murphy Building, Lecture Theatre MY 112

Required texts:

1. Tom Stoppard, *Professional Foul* (in *ENGL 115 Selected Poems & Television Drama*, supplied free in first lecture);
2. Selected Poems (in *Selected Poems and Television Drama* as above);
3. William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*;
4. Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*;
5. Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*;
6. H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*.

The assignments will require you to show that you have fully studied all these texts.

You will therefore need to possess or have full access to copies of each. 1 and 2 are distributed free to reduce costs. "Guidelines for SEFT Students" (available in Student Notes) is highly recommended as reference for the presentation of written work.

Programme: 75% attendance in all classes - lectures and tutorials - is a mandatory requirement for gaining credit in the paper.

Lectures:

Week 1:	November 14, 15, 16	Tom Stoppard, <i>Professional Foul</i>
Week 2:	Nov 21, 22, 23	<i>Selected Poems</i>
Week 3:	Nov 28, 29, 30	William Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i>
	Within lecture Tue Nov 28	Assignment clinic

Friday Dec 8 First assignment due

CHRISTMAS

Week 4: January 9, 10, 11 Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*
Within lecture Tue Jan 9 Assignment Clinic

Monday Jan 15 Second assignment due

Week 5: January 16, 17, 18 Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*
Week 6: Jan 23, 24, 25 H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*

Wednesday Feb 7 Third assignment due : NO EXTENSIONS

Tutorials

Tutorials meet five times each, in **Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6**. Times arranged during Week 1.

Convenor: Emeritus Professor Roger Robinson
Von Zedlitz 913; ph 6849; Roger.Robinson@vuw.ac.nz

Guest lecturers: Dr Janet Hughes (poet, Parliamentary writer, specialist in English style conventions and in New Zealand poetry); Dr Tatjana Schaefer (specialist in 16th & 17th century poetry, and comparative literature & culture).

Tutor: Dr Tatjana Schaefer (VZ 914; ph 463 6802;
Tatjana.Schaefer@vuw.ac.nz)

Other information: SEFTMS notice board, Hugh McKenzie 200 Foyer, by HM 206.

Prerequisites: ENGL 115 is open to any matriculated student.

Credit: ENGL 115 is an 18-point BA paper, and may be credited towards the prerequisites for 200-level English Literature. (To advance to 200-level ENGL you need one 100-level ENGL or SEFT paper and one further paper from ENGL, SEFT, FILM or MDIA.)

Aims: "Literature and Visual Media" aims to introduce students to literary texts from a range of genres and periods, with a focus on their visual content, effects and connections.

Objectives: This paper is designed to complement any other ENGL, SEFT or MDIA (Media Studies) 100-level paper; to fulfil part of the prerequisite for entry to 200-level ENGL papers; to provide an introduction to University English study; to provide preparation for advanced study, especially in English, Film, Theatre, Media Studies and/or Creative Writing; and to be of value equally to intending English majors and to any student with interest in the topic.

- As a literature paper, it requires, and provides training in, the close reading and study of literary texts, including examples of fiction, poetry, stage drama and television drama, across a range of historical periods. Students will also develop particular skills in identifying, describing, and analysing the visual content, effects and connections of these texts (see next two "objectives" for definitions).
- "Visual content and effects" include descriptive writing, the use of the environment in landscape and city settings, human appearance and dress, renderings of the psychology of perception, and visual metaphor.
- "Connections" include book illustrations, especially (in this paper) of narrative fiction in the nineteenth century, graphic narrative, the actual visual world (landscape and urban) and its use as setting, works of art and theatre, and film and television versions of literary texts.
- Some special thematic studies will run through the course. Students will gain knowledge of the history of illustrated narrative and the relation of visual to verbal language. They will also gain knowledge of the concept of the cultural history of a text, and of the process of remaking selected texts in different media and for different audiences, as technologies and tastes change. In one case (Wells) this will include attention to the aural media of radio and music, as well as stage drama, film and television.

Students gaining credit in ENGL 115 will:

- have fully read and closely studied all the prescribed literary texts;
- have acquired skills in literary-critical discussion, both oral and written;
- be able to identify, describe and analyse the visual content, effects and connections of these texts;
- be familiar with examples of a range of connections in visual media, including the illustration of narrative, television drama, stage drama and film adaptation.

Assessment:

Assessment is by **three** written assignments, each 1000 words, totalling 3000 words, and each worth one-third of the total marks. (This is greater than for other 100-level ENGL courses because those all have exams.) Details are in the Assessment Handout(s). The assignments require you to show knowledge of **all** the prescribed texts, and topics will be related to material covered in lectures. There is no final exam. Late assignments without extension may be penalised by one grade (i.e. B+ becomes B) for every two days late. *Assignments must be delivered in hard copy unless special permission is granted for email delivery.* In addition to tutorials, special “assignment clinics” will provide advice on writing good assignments in the discipline of English Literature. These will give opportunity for students to contribute to oral discussion.

Workload:

ENGL 115 is a **literature** paper and all the required texts must be fully read and carefully studied. Versions of the texts in visual media are required **additional** study. The University workload guideline for 100-level 18-point papers is 12 hours per week over a 12-week trimester, including class attendance, study and writing assignments. Since ENGL 115 is over six weeks, workloads must be adjusted accordingly, probably by spreading your reading and study over non-teaching weeks. You **must** be willing to work in the more intensive pressure of the six-week arrangement.

Mandatory requirements:

- Fully read and carefully study all the required texts (five titles plus "Selected Poems").
- Attend at least 75% of class meetings, counting lectures and tutorials.
- Contribute to oral discussion as required.
- Complete three written assignments of the student's own work to a total of 3000 words
- Meet deadlines. (Only in very special circumstances can extensions be given beyond Feb 7, since results are required for 1/3 enrolments.)
- Note: Failure to fulfil any of these requirements will result in a D or E grade (the University no longer uses “Q”)

Academic concerns and problems: Initially consult the tutor, or the convenor, and if necessary the Head of School (Professor Robert Easting).

Plagiarism: Students are reminded of the School's policy on plagiarism. Credit in ENGL papers is given for your own ability to read, study and discuss literary texts. Other sources must be acknowledged. *Material downloaded from the internet must be treated as a published source, and may **not** be incorporated in your work without specific acknowledgement.* Plagiarised work may lead to your failing the course or being required to submit alternative work.

Students with disabilities: Victoria University has a policy strongly supportive of students with disabilities. Make sure the convenor is aware of special needs. For further advice and assistance, contact Student Disability Services, Floor 1 Robert Stout Building, ph 463 6070; disability @vuw.ac.nz

General University requirements, statutes and procedures:

Students should familiarise themselves with all course of study requirements (eg for the BA degree) from the University *Calendar* or website. The University also requires that all members of its community are able to learn, study and participate in the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect.

[Illustrations in this Outline are all by John Leech, from the First Edition of *A Christmas Carol*, 1843, and are supplementary to the handout "A Christmas Carol Illustrated: 1843-1960".]