

ENGL423 New Zealand Literature: Mansfield and Friends

Trimester 2 2014

14 July to 16 November 2014

30 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Study week: 20 to 24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Monday 10.00 – 12.50, Von Zedlitz VZ802. In week 3 we will visit the National Library and in week 12 the class will be held at the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
Jane Stafford	jane.stafford@vuw.ac.nz	463 6816	VZ 901

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be posted through the ENGL423 Blackboard site.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

This course looks at the works of Katherine Mansfield in a variety of contexts: colonial literature, the decadents, Russian literature, modernism, the Bloomsbury group. It examines her relationships with D.H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf, whom she knew, and Oscar Wilde, Anton Chekhov, and James Joyce, whom she read. It engages with current criticism and biography, and students will be introduced to and work with the Mansfield material at the Alexander Turnbull Library.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

This course aims to examine the writing of Katherine Mansfield in the context of the writers who influenced or were associated with her work. Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. be familiar with Mansfield's writing, both the stories and also the notebook, journal and letters;
2. be familiar with the work of Mansfield's influences and contemporaries, and the way they relate to Mansfield;
3. be familiar with a selection of critical writings concerning these works;
4. have experience of the primary sources;
5. construct their own discussion of the central issues.

TEACHING FORMAT

Classes will usually be held on Monday morning, 10-12.50, in VZ 802, although in week 3 we will visit the National Library and in week 12 the class will be held at the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace. Details of arrangements for these visits will be given nearer the time.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. submit the exercise and the essay on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
2. participate in the preparation of weekly seminars, and take particular responsibility for one seminar;
3. sit the examination.

As in all English Programme courses, there is a 70% attendance requirement but in an honours course students are expected to attend all classes. If you are unable to attend a class you should contact the course convenor in advance.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Exercise (2000 words)	20%	1,2,4,5	15 Aug
2	Essay (3500 words)	40%	1,2,3,5,	10 Oct
3	Exam 3 hours (24 October to 15 November 2014)	40%	1,2,3,4,5	TBA

Assessment has been structured to help students meet the objectives of the course, covering a range of skills from primary research, close evaluation of texts, consideration of cultural and historical background and secondary criticism.

Assessment is by a combination of 60% internal work and 40% exam.

The internal work consists of one exercise and one essay.

The exercise is 2000 words in length, worth 20% of the total and is due on 15 August, and focuses on research skills.

The essay is 3500 words in length, worth 40% of the total and is due on 31 May. This will test your ability to engage in a substantial research project, and to present and argue an original thesis.

The exam will be three hours in duration, and its format will be discussed with the class towards the end of the course. You will not be able to write in the exam on the non-Mansfield author you wrote about in your essay.

Note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification is made.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to english@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your course convenor. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions. No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 November 2014.

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

ENGL 423 Student Notes;

Anton Chekhov, *The Essential Tales of Chekhov* (Granta);

James Joyce, *Dubliners* (Oxford World's Classics);

DH Lawrence, *The Prussian Officer and Other Stories* (Penguin);

Katherine Mansfield, *Selected Stories* (Oxford World's Classics);

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Oxford World's Classics);

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (Oxford World's Classics).

Links will be provided to additional material. See Blackboard site.

You can order *textbooks and student notes* online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support

- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

SEMINAR TIMETABLE

Week 1. Colonial literature

'The Woman at the Store', 'Millie', Smith, pp. 10-28; 'Ole Underwood', Henry Lawson, 'The Drover's Wife', Barbara Baynton, 'The Chosen Vessel', Blackboard links; Jane Stafford and Mark Williams, 'Katherine Mansfield: A Modernist in Maoriland' and Lydia Wevers, 'How Kathleen Beauchamp was Kidnapped', Student Notes Anthology.

Week 2. Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Week 3. National Library visit

Details will be announced nearer the time.

Week 4. Oscar Wilde & KM

Vignettes, 'The Tiredness of Rosabel', 'The Swing of the Pendulum', Blackboard links; Vincent O'Sullivan, 'The Magnetic Chain: Notes and Approaches to K.M.' and Sydney Jane Kaplan, 'Katherine Mansfield and the Problem of Oscar Wilde', *Student Notes Anthology*.

Week 5. Anton Chekhov

Anton Chekhov, *Essential Tales*; 'Sleepy' and 'His Wife', Blackboard links.

EXERCISE DUE 15 AUGUST.

Week 6. Anton Chekhov & KM

'The Dill Pickle', 'The Little Governess', 'Something Childish but very Natural', 'Je ne parle pas français', Smith, pp. 47-59, 29-46, 142-167; Sydney Jane Kaplan, 'Introduction', Katherine Mansfield and the Origins of Modern Fiction, *Student Notes Anthology*.

Mid Trimester break Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014

Week 7. DH Lawrence, *The Prussian Officer and other stories*

Read all stories, but especially 'The Odour of Chrysanthemums'; 'Daughters of the Vicar'; Charles Ferrall, 'An Unlikely Blutbrüderschaft: Mansfield and D.H. Lawrence', *Student Notes Anthology*.

Week 8. DH Lawrence & KM

'Bliss', 'Psychology', 'The Man Without a Temperament', 'The Garden Party', Smith pp. 174-185, 186-192, 201-212, 336-349; Angela Smith, 'Mansfield and Modernism', *Student Notes Anthology*.

Week 9. 17 May: Virginia Woolf

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*.

Week 10. Virginia Woolf and KM

'Prelude', 'At the Bay', Smith, pp. 79-120, 281-314.

Angela Smith, 'A Single Day: "At the Bay" and Mrs Dalloway', *Student Notes Anthology*.

Week 11. James Joyce, *Dubliners*.

Read all stories but especially 'The Dead'.

ESSAY DUE 10 OCTOBER.

Week 12. 7 June: Last Things (This class will be held at the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, Tinakori Road)

'Her First Ball', 'The Fly', Smith, pp. 265-271, 357-362.

Study Week: Monday 20 to Friday 24 October 2014

Examination Period: Friday 24 October to Saturday 15 November 2014

ASSESSMENT

Mansfield in Context.

Research exercise: due 15 August. Length 2000 words, more or less equally distributed between the three parts.

Choose a piece of writing by Mansfield – it can be a short story, a vignette, an essay, a review, a dramatic sketch or a poem – which was published up to and including 1913. (This excludes unpublished letters and notebook material.)

Give an account of the place in which the piece was first published: what kind of journal was it, what kind of newspaper; what can you tell from the other items that appeared at the same time about the orientation and editorial policy of the publication; what can you find out about it from other sources.

Using primary materials – the Mansfield letters and notebooks, and any other material (not necessarily only by Mansfield) you feel would be relevant – give an account of the personal context in which the work was produced. What were Mansfield's circumstances, what were her ambitions, what theories of writing and art influenced her at this time, etc.

Write a critical analysis of the piece.

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Comparative Essay: due 31 May, length 3,500 words

Answer one of the following. You will not be able to answer a question in the exam on the author you choose here.

1

Edgar Allen – Atmosphere – untidiness of landscape – Height, river, small boat, Italy, colour purple – the result of fire – manuka – Ai. Hotel man with daughter – willows the yellow transparent effect.

When NZ is more artificial she will give birth to an artist who can treat her natural beauties adequately. This sounds paradoxical but is true.

Mansfield, 1907 (*Notebooks*, vol. 1, p. 81).

Use this quotation as a starting point for a comparative discussion of the way that ideas of art, the artist and the artificial are manifested in the work of Mansfield and Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray*. (You may if you choose also refer to other works by Wilde.)

2

In his introduction to *The Essential Tales of Chekhov*, Richard Ford writes:

In Chekhov, there are no potted or predictable attitudes about anything: women, children, dogs, cats, the clergy, teachers, peasants, the military, businessmen, government officials, marriage, all Russia itself. And if anything can be termed 'typical' it is that he insists we keep our notice close to life's nuance, its intimate gestures and small moral annotations.

Use this quotation as a starting point for a comparative discussion of the everyday in the works of Chekhov and Katherine Mansfield.

3.

I shall never see sex in trees, sex in running brooks, sex in stones and sex in everything. The number of things that are really phallic, from fountain pen filers onwards!

Mansfield to Beatrice Campbell on D.H. Lawrence (1917)

Compare the attitudes to sex in D.H. Lawrence's *Prussian Officer* stories and the works of Katherine Mansfield.

4.

She cared much more for her roses than for the Armenians. Hunted out of existence, maimed, frozen, the victims of cruelty and injustice (she had heard Richard say over and over again) – no, she could feel nothing for the Albanians, or was it the Armenians? but she loved her roses (didn't that help the Armenians?) – the only flowers she could bear to see cut. . . .

Mrs Dalloway (1925)

Use this quotation as a starting point for a comparative discussion of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* and the works of Katherine Mansfield as social critique.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Reference works

Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, eds. WH Oliver and Claudia Orange:

www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies

National Dictionary of Biography: VUW online database.

The Oxford History of New Zealand Literature, second edition, ed. Terry Sturm. Auckland: Oxford University Press, 1996.

The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature, eds. Roger Robinson and Nelson Wattie. Auckland: Oxford, 1997.

The New Zealand Literature File: www.nzlf.auckland.ac.nz

The Page: Poetry, Essays, Language, Ideas: www.thepage.name

The Katherine Mansfield Society: www.katherinemansfieldsociety.org

The Modernist Journals Project: <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/mjp/journals.html>

Mansfield

The Collected Letters of Katherine Mansfield, eds. Vincent O'Sullivan and Margaret Scott. 5 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984-2008.

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General Background

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Criticism

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