

ENGL 444 Special Topic: Texts in Context

Trimester 2 2014

14 July to 16 November 2014

30 Points



From: *Alice's Adventures under Ground* (the first version of *Alice in Wonderland*), illustrated by Carroll himself

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 are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Withdrawal dates:

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawals-refunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, you are advised to refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminars

Tues 10.00-12.50 vZ802

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Professor Kathryn Walls kathryn.walls@vuw.ac.nz 463 6898 VZ 916 Course coordinator

Office hours to be confirmed.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be emailed to everyone in the class and posted on Blackboard. You should either use the Victoria email address set up for you, or set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

An investigation of six literary classics as responses to contemporary developments in science (and related pursuits). Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, for example, will be paired with Darwin's *Origin of the Species*; Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* with Dampier's *Voyages*; Pope's *Rape of the Lock* with Newton's *Opticks*.

COURSE CONTENT

This course offers practice in and a template for research. Texts have been chosen as the basis for a broad exploration of the way in which decidedly non-literary works may have influenced, and may illuminate, imaginative writing. Lowes's study of Coleridge, *The Road to Xanadu*, is incorporated as a pioneering example of this critical genre.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate their familiarity with the set texts.
2. Discuss the set texts.
3. Interpret and analyse the literary set texts in the light of their parallel non-literary set texts.
4. Produce, in-term, independently conceived essays comparable with journal articles.

TEACHING FORMAT

Classes will take the form of discussions centred on the set texts. Students will be expected to have read, before each class, the texts scheduled for discussion, and to have undertaken other prescribed preparation as announced in the previous class and posted on Blackboard.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Attend at least 70% of scheduled seminars
- Submit both essays on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as stated for late submission of work)
- Sit the course examination

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours—inclusive of hours spent in class—per teaching week. You will be spending these hours reading, preparing for seminars, writing essays, and reviewing for the examination. These components overlap, and relative requirements may vary somewhat from week to week. You may, however, expect to spend approximately 48 hours on the first of the two essays prescribed below, and about 32 hours on the second.

ASSESSMENT

Internal assessment:

Essay 1

3500 words

Due 19 August

Value: 30% (60% of the internal component)

This essay is designed to assess your knowledge and skills as outlined under “Learning Objectives 1-4” in relation to one pair of texts.

Subject: *Alice in Wonderland*; *Origin of Species*

Topic: You should choose your own line of enquiry and develop a formal topic in consultation with Kathryn.

Essay 2

2500 words

Due 17 October

Value: 20% (40% of the internal component)

This essay is designed to assess your knowledge and skills as outlined under “Learning Objectives” 1-4 in relation to one pair of texts—or at least to one literary work and a package of related non-literary texts.

Subject: Any text in its suggested context (excluding *Alice in Wonderland* and *Origin of Species*). It is expected that you will make your choice from the set texts. If, however, you are keen to apply the model used in this course to texts other than those set, this may be possible. You will need to mention your idea to Kathryn at least six weeks in advance of the due date, on the understanding that her permission is by no means guaranteed.

Topic: You should choose your own line of enquiry and develop a formal topic in consultation with Kathryn.

Examination

Value: 50%

Time: Three hours.

Permission: You will be permitted to take copies of the set texts into the examination. These may be annotated.

More detailed information will be provided in week 10.

The examination will be designed to assess your knowledge and skills as outlined under “Learning Objectives” 1-3.

As noted on the first page of this outline, the examination period extends from 24 October – 15 November.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

Your work will be assessed for the relevance, substance, originality and validity of its content, and for the clarity, fluency and formal correctness of its presentation.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity through “Turnitin” (an online plagiarism prevention tool).

Each assignment is to be submitted in two formats:

- (i) As a hardcopy: in the drop slot outside the administration office, von Zedlitz level 8. You should attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment. These cover sheets and forms may be found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- (ii) As an MS Word file: emailed to english@vuw.ac.nz. Step-by-step instructions (including instructions as to how to name your file) may be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section.

Kathryn will return marked assignments in hardcopy format (only) at the end of seminars. After the last day of teaching, any uncollected assignments will be left with the Programme Administrator. She will keep them for collection until the end of the third trimester. (You will need your student ID if you want to collect an assignment from the Administration office.)

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

If you want to seek an extension of the due date, you must complete a request form (available on the course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate.

If you think that you may have to submit your work after the due date, **please do take the trouble to apply for an extension**. According to a policy embraced by the English Programme as a whole, work submitted after the deadline but without an extension will be penalised by a 2.5% deduction from your total mark per work day. It will also receive only minimal comment. It would be a pity if you were to suffer these penalties unnecessarily.

SET TEXTS

John Livingston Lowes, *The Road to Xanadu: A Study in the Ways of the Imagination* (1927)*;

S. T. Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Kubla Khan* (1797);

Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management (1861);

Charles Darwin, *The Origin of the Species* (1859*);

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland* (1865)*;

William Dampier, *Memoirs of a Buccaneer, 1697* (Dover, 2007)*;

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726*);

Early eighteenth-century "proposals" (texts provided);

Swift, *A Modest Proposal* (1729);

Publications by members of the Royal Society, 1622-c.1740 (texts provided);

Alexander Pope, *Dunciad IV* (selected excerpts).

These texts are listed in the approximate order in which they are to be discussed in class. Most may be downloaded from the Library's databases *Literature Online* and *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*. Some are also available in standard cheap editions. *The Road to Xanadu* may be downloaded to a Kindle via Amazon.com, which also has new (but expensive) and second-hand copies on offer. Asterisked titles should be on sale in Vic Books—but you are free to use any editions or downloaded versions. *The Rape of the Lock* as edited for ENGL 111 students may be purchased from Student Notes.

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

RECOMMENDED READING

Careful reading of the set texts should take priority over critical and “background” reading. Some recommendations for secondary reading will however be made in class and recorded on Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative will be able to communicate feedback on your behalf to Kathryn during the course. He or she will be elected at the first or second seminar. You may like to write the Class Rep’s name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

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

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

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

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- 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

COURSE PROGRAMME

Please note that this schedule is provisional and liable to minor adjustments as the course progresses.

Week 1	July 15	Introduction; Coleridge, <i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>
Week 2	July 22	<i>Rime</i> ; John Livingstone Lowes; explorers' narratives
Week 3	July 29	Carroll, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> ; Victorian cookery
Week 4	Aug 5	Carroll, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> ; Darwin, <i>Origin of Species</i>
Week 5	Aug 12	Dampier's <i>Memoirs</i>
Week 6	Aug 19	Dampier's <i>Memoirs</i> ; <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
first essay due		
Mid Trimester Break: Aug 25 – Sept 5 2014		
Week 7	Sept 9	Swift, <i>A Modest Proposal</i> and serious "proposal" pamphlets
Week 8	Sept 16	The Royal Society and Pope Pope's attack on the scientists, <i>Dunciad</i> IV. 347-58
Week 9	Sept 23	Pope borrows from science Microscopic studies of living creatures (Hooke's <i>Micrographia</i> , van Leeuwenhoek); excerpts from Pope
Week 10	Sept 30	Chemistry (including Robert Boyle on air); excerpts from Pope
Week 11	Oct 7	Physics (Newton and Newtonians on gravity); excerpts from Pope
Week 12	Oct 14	"Science" and <i>The Rape of the Lock</i>

second essay due Oct 17