EL235

MODERN LITERATURE

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name: Modern Literature

Unit Code: EL235

Awards: Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - English teaching area
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - English major
This unit is able to be undertaken towards other CHC awards according to course rules and the meeting of prerequisite requirements, as applicable.

Core/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: 20 credit points of 100-level EL units

Mode: Internal

Delivery/Contact hrs:
- Class contact: 33 hours
- Engagement with unit materials: 44 hours
- Assignment preparation: 63 hours
- Total: 140 hours

Unit Rationale:
Modern literature provides students with a valuable window into the psychology of modern culture and into some of the key issues of the twentieth century. It illuminates in a powerful way the powerful forces, questions and passions which have shaped the world in which we live. Within the context of the literature of what is often called the 'modernist' period, which dominated the first half of the twentieth century, a number of specific themes will be highlighted: the intellectual struggles of modern philosophers to cope with a worldview bereft of God; clashes between different cultures, especially in colonial situations; and rivalries between divergent religious traditions and moral codes.

In the process of investigating and analysing these vital areas of conflict within the modern world, students will be introduced to some of the twentieth century’s leading authors and to some of its most influential texts. In summary, therefore, this unit will broaden students’ literary knowledge and appreciation, and equip them with a mature understanding of some of the key cultural, social and philosophical issues of the twentieth century.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. Understood the modernist period against the background of literary history and the intellectual climate of the early twentieth century.
2. Critically analysed modernist views and literature from a Christian worldview perspective.
3. Identified the distinctive characteristics of the modernist literary period.
4. Analysed selected works of literature both for their literary qualities as well as their thematic content.
5. Interpreted modern poetry and identified important poetic techniques.
6. Shown maturing appreciation of the role of literature as an expression of social, cultural and philosophical issues and transitions.
7. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introduction and Background to the Modern Period  
Developing a critical framework for analysing modern literature from Christian perspectives |
| 2    | Characteristic Themes of the Modern Period |
| 3    | Literary Style and Technique in the Modern Period |
| 4    | The Modern Novel |
| 5    | Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* |
| 6    | Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* |
| 7    | Forster, *A Passage to India* |
| 8    | Greene, *The Power and the Glory* |
| 9    | Joyce, *Dubliners* |
| 10   | Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* |
| 11   | Modern Poetry |

Set Text Requirements:


Forster, EM 1984 *A Passage to India*, Penguin, Hammondsworth, UK.


Joyce, J 1977, *Dubliners*, Signet/Penguin Ringwood, VIC.


Recommended Readings:


### Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poetry Analysis (500 words)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-4,6</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation (15-20 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3, 5-6</td>
<td>Weeks 7-10</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper (1500 words)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unit Overview:

The Modern world that made its appearance in Western nations in the first half of the twentieth century displayed the characteristics of a culture that was losing its way, and that would eventually arrive at a culture determined (in varying degrees) by the philosophy of postmodernism. The literature of the period reflects a sense of aimlessness and meaninglessness in both its themes and its language.