Schoolvakminor English Literature
Hier vind je de beschrijvingen van de vakken in de minor. Meer inhoudelijke informatie over de minor vind je op minor.vu.nl.
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American Film: Cinematic Representations of the "Other"

Vakcode | L_ELBAELK208
---|---
Periode | Periode 2
Credits | 6.0
Voertaal | Engels
Faculteit | Faculteit der Geestes wetenschappen
Coördinator | dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Examinator | dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Docent(en) | dr. R.V.J. van den Oever
Lesmethode(n) | Werkcollege
Niveau | 200

**Doel vak**
Students become acquainted with the study of identity representation in American film.

**Inhoud vak**
What theoretical questions arise when studying the representation of identity - think of race, gender, sexuality - in American film? Per meeting, we discuss a particular theoretical issue - for instance, stereotyping, the male gaze, character engagement, identity politics, queer subtext - after which students apply this theoretical perspective to an assigned filmic text.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Seminar meetings, 2 x 2 hours per week.

**Toetsvorm**
Exam.

**Literatuur**
To be announced.

**Vereiste voorkennis**
None.

**Doelgroep**
This course is part of two minor packages: (1) American Studies; (2) Gender and Diversity. Students from other Bachelor's programs are welcome.

**Intekenprocedure**
There is a slightly different enrollment procedure for this course. The standard procedure of the Faculty of Humanities has students sign up for (i) the course, (ii) the type of class (lecture and/or preferred seminar group), and (iii) the exam. However, for this course the instructor will assign the students to the seminar groups. Therefore, students should sign up for (i) the course, (ii) the lectures (if applicable), and (iii) the exam, but not for the seminar groups.

There is limited seating in this course. Priority will be given to students of two minor packages: (1) American Studies; (2) Gender and Diversity. Students from other Bachelor's programs are initially placed on a waiting list.
**Overige informatie**
The level of English in this course is high.

**American Literature 1776-1914**

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<td>Coördinator</td>
<td>dr. B. Boter</td>
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**Doel vak**

**Aims**

- Students become acquainted with some of the canonical texts from the long 19th century (British and American), and are able to relate them to travel narratives written by the same authors.
- Students become familiar with the genre of (British and American) travel writing and the developments of the genre between the late 18th and early 20th century.
- Students understand how travel writing is implicated in the processes of identity formation (both collective and individual) and intercultural exchange.
- Students are able to apply theoretical notions such as transnationalism, national culture, space and place, and gender to individual texts from the historical period.
- Students know how to start up and conduct a small academic research project for their final essay.
- Students are able to freely express their ideas in both written work and informal, oral presentations.

**Inhoud vak**

This course introduces students to American (and some British) literature written between the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 20th century. As it is impossible to cover all Anglo-American writing of the “long 19th century” in the course of seven weeks, we will focus on one specific genre: travel writing. This literary genre, which has been popular for centuries, has been much overlooked by academics and those constituting the British and American literary canons. The new critical paradigms of “transnationalism” and “globalization,” however, necessitate a new and serious look at these texts. We will read travel writings by authors such as Charles Dickens, Henry James and Mark Twain in combination with canonized texts by these same authors. This will allow us to compare and contextualize.

In addition, we will read and discuss some narratives written by lesser known and more marginal authors, as well as a few critical essays on travel writing. The level of English in this course is high. You will have to be able to read late 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-century texts.
Critical issues addressed:
Authorship, autobiography, authenticity
Canonization, literary codes and conventions, genre
Literary styles such as irony
Global citizenship, transnationalism
Identity, global and national culture
Encounter, intercultural exchange, othering
Nature writing, travel and space, the sublime

**Onderwijsvorm**
Students are expected to prepare the assigned texts before coming to class, to bring the texts to class (hard copy or digitized), and to discuss them with their fellow students and instructor. They should upload written assignments before the deadlines stated in the course syllabus. The written assignments and exam test the students’ insights into the most prominent themes discussed during class.

**Toetsvorm**
Assessment: 20% active participation in plenary discussions and in-class group work. Students are allowed to miss a total of two sessions. Once the student has missed three classes she or he will automatically be excluded from Canvas and from the course, and they will not receive credits.

40%: written assignments (20% Canvas posts; 20% final essay).

40%: exam.

Students will only receive credits for the course if
1. they have in time submitted all written assignments, so also the Canvas posts
2. the grade for their final essay and/or submitted exam is a 5 or higher. If the grade for your final essay is lower than 5.0 you must do the resit. If you have a grade of 5.0 or 5.5 you may do the resit, but you can also compensate the grade for your essay with grades for other assignments. Please note that the Faculty allows resits for all exams, also those graded 5.5 and higher. The grade for the resit counts. NB If you have not submitted all Canvas posts in time, you will not be eligible to do the exam.

**Literatuur**
We will use a course textbook such as the one written by Carl Thompson, Travel Writing (Routledge 2011). In addition, we will read and discuss primary texts (travel writing).

**American Literature 1914-present**

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Doel vak
Students become acquainted with the major developments and a number of key texts (novels, short stories, drama, poetry) in American literature from 1900 to the present.

Inhoud vak
This course has a twofold focus in its discussion of American literature from 1900 to the present. For one, we will highlight successive literary waves, such as realism, modernism, and postmodernism. In addition, we will draw connections between fiction on the one hand, and historical context and identity politics on the other.

Onderwijsvorm
Seminar meetings, 3 x 2 hours per week.

Toetsvorm
Final essay

Literatuur
To be announced.

Doelgroep
This course is part of the Bachelor's program English: Literature and Society, and of the minor package American Studies. Students from other Bachelor's programs and minor packages are welcome.

Intekenprocedure
There is limited seating for this course. Priority will be given to students of the Bachelor's program English: Literature and Society, and the minor package American Studies. Students from other Bachelor's programs are initially placed on a waiting list.

Overige informatie
The level of English in this course is high.

Genre, Literature and Analysis (blended learning)

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Doel vak
This course will provide a grounding in critical analysis of genre in English Literature as well as provide a thorough introduction to the concept of close reading, which will be the basis of all courses in our
programme. This course examines the specificities and characteristics that are associated with various genres of literature -- poetry, fiction, and drama -- and guides the student through an understanding that genre and literary form helps shape the way we look at and analyze a text. Students will become familiar with academic lexis associated with literary analysis, especially regarding close reading of multiple and diverse texts.

**Inhoud vak**
The content of the course will comprise of web seminars and Skype sessions in which students learn the skill of close reading. By means of discussions with the instructor and fellow students, individual, group, and creative exercises, and the keeping of a journal, the student will learn how to cull the most vital information from a variety of literary (and non-literary) texts and shape his or her vision on that text.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Web seminars and Skype sessions

**Toetsvorm**
Attendance / Participation / Talking Back to the Text: 10%
Poetry explication: 30%
Exam: 40%
Literature Visualized: 20%

**Literatuur**

**Vereiste voorkennis**
None

**Doelgroep**
Only for pre-Master students

**Literature, Culture and Society**

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**Doel vak**
This course trains students in the close reading of, and critical reflection on, literary and critical texts from a variety of national, cultural and historical backgrounds, and from diverse disciplinary angles. Students learn about social and academic debates regarding the relationship between literature and society. Students practice with written and verbal presentations of their own research. Students learn how to provide their peers with constructive feedback.

**Inhoud vak**
For centuries, literary and other cultural texts have changed the way people think and look at the world. They reveal social injustices and societal ills, offering ideas and ammunition for social change, thereby helping people to imagine different, better realities. A single text may trigger an individual's struggle for emancipation, but also that of a group or a nation. This course will explore the important ways in which literary texts have contributed to societal change and have liberated people throughout the centuries up to the present.

The texts we discuss have instigated individual readers as well as collectivities to discover and become aware of injustices, unfairness and abuse. This course analyzes that process, using the following questions as leading threads in the discussions: Which rhetorical strategies employed in the texts evoke the readers' empathy and possible agency? How do the texts simultaneously assist in emboldening the reader, strengthening an emerging community, and gaining acceptance from a wider audience? In which way do they balance realities that are already being lived and imagined possibilities that have yet to materialize? How do they interact with other expressions of the struggle for emancipation, by way of imitation, opposition, appropriation? And, finally, how do they function within the communities that they have helped found, how are they remembered, recreated, redefined, and to which purposes?

**Onderwijsvorm**
Students and instructor meet three times per week:
First session: introductory lecture (two hours);
Second session: seminar in which students and instructor discuss and close-read (two hours);
Third session: excursion OR film viewing and discussion OR group presentations OR group work (two hours).

**Toetsvorm**
Assessment:
Participation 30% (including a partial grade for a presentation; Canvas posts)
Written exam 40%
Final report or essay 30%
Students will receive credits for the course if their grade for the written exam is 5.5 or higher. They are not allowed to compensate an exam grade that is below 5.5 with other partial grades.

**Literatuur**
To be announced on Canvas.

**Vereiste voorkennis**
First year students 'Literatuur en Samenleving': none. Exchange students need a good command of English, need to have a humanities or Social Science background, and need to have some experience writing academically in English.

**Doelgroep**
First year students of 'Literatuur en Samenleving'; Exchange students.

**Intekenprocedure**
There is a slightly different enrollment procedure for this course. The standard procedure of the Faculty of Humanities has students sign up for (i) the course, (ii) the type of class (lecture and/or preferred seminar group), and (iii) the exam. However, for this course the instructor will assign the students to the seminar groups. Therefore, students should sign up for (i) the course, (ii) the lectures (if applicable), and (iii) the exam, but not for the seminar groups.

**Overige informatie**
This course is obligatory in the first year. Attendance is compulsory. Students who have more than two absences will be required to submit a written compensation assignment. Students who miss more than two sessions will not be able to receive credits for the course. This course is a prerequisite for the second year course Culture and Power: Core Issues.