

EL 402.01 Modern Novel Spring 2024¹

Instructor: Burcu Kayışcı Akkoyun

Class Meeting Hours: Tuesday 15.00-16.50, Thursday 10.00-10.50

Classrooms: İB 211 | İB 211 | TB 415

Office no: TB 529

Office hours: Tuesday 13.00-15.00²

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Course Description and Objectives:

Welcome to EL 402.01 “Modern Novel.” The course focuses on the characteristics of the novel from the end of the 19th to the late 20th century. We will begin with a general discussion on modernism and the modernist fiction, the way(s) in which the modernist novel responds to its sociocultural and political context, and the “newness” it brings to the literary tradition. We will read *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce, *The Trial* by Franz Kafka, and *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut. These novels explore issues as diverse as horrors of imperialist enterprise, the formation of artistic identity, bureaucratic oppression, and the destruction of war. All four novels engage with the representation of crisis along with the crisis of representation in their unique ways. We will thus investigate the relationship between form and content as we discuss these themes, and try to understand how the authors handle individual consciousness, temporality, spatiality, narration, and memory. We will focus on the literary techniques they employ in their endeavor to expand the conventions of the genre. We will also examine the fluid, if not artificial, boundaries between the modern and the postmodern.

Required Texts:

Heart of Darkness (1899) by Joseph Conrad

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916) by James Joyce

The Trial (1925) by Franz Kafka

Slaughterhouse-Five (1969) by Kurt Vonnegut

¹ This is the tentative syllabus. Please check Moodle course page regularly for the updates and notifications.

² We can arrange appointments by email as well.

- The hard copies of the novels will be available in the library copy shop. You are free to use your own copies. E-books are OK, but should not be preferred if possible.
- Extra reading and discussion materials will be available on Moodle course page.

Learning Outcomes:

This course aims to familiarize the students with modernism and the modernist fiction. By the end of the course, the students will have developed a better understanding of the sociopolitical context(s) of the modern novel and its aesthetic aspects. They will be able to identify and analyze the specific narrative techniques employed by the authors to portray fictional worlds. They will also be able to improve their writing skills and written expression through the exercises provided.

Class Policies:

*** One word to rule us all: respect**

Respect is about:

- following the classroom etiquette
- contributing to a safe learning environment, i.e., listening to each other attentively even though we disagree at times.
- maintaining clear and transparent communication: I will make sure that I respond to your emails as soon as I can, but only within reasonable working hours. Please ask/ tell me whenever you have any issues/concerns rather than worry over hearsay circulating in chat groups etc. We can always arrange office hours.

If you are a student with learning or other disabilities (or any other issues), please inform me in person or via email during the first two weeks of the semester so that necessary arrangements can be made.

Course Requirements and Assessment Items:

Active class participation: 10%
Reading quizzes: 20%
Midterm exam: 35%
Final exam: 35%

- Since this is a reading and discussion intensive class, **it is very important that you come to class having read the assigned material.**

- Your participation is essential and required, so only those who actively show interest in classes will be able to get full points from this category. Please do not hesitate to join the conversation: we are not after definitive answers but thought-provoking questions.
- I will give you announced quizzes that cover the details of the assigned reading for the day. There will be **no makeup** for the missed quizzes, so it is your own responsibility to plan your attendance.
- You will have a midterm exam towards the middle of the semester and a final exam at the end. I will provide the necessary information before the exams.
- If you are legitimately excused from the exam (i.e. for documented circumstances), I will arrange a make-up exam.
- For written assignments, you must follow the MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines for formatting and citation. You can access the latest edition here:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

All sources must be properly cited otherwise you are committing plagiarism, that is, presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Not only direct quotations and facts but also paraphrases of ideas must be properly documented. If you have any doubts about whether/how you should cite a source, please ask me BEFORE you submit your work. Plagiarism also includes submitting papers or work you have used for other courses (your own or others'), buying papers online or having others write papers for you: no such work will be accepted.

- **Any instance of academic dishonesty will be subject to appropriate sanctions. For more on plagiarism and how to avoid it, please see:**
<https://westlanglit.bogazici.edu.tr/en/undergraduate-study-basics>

Course Schedule:³

W-1	Feb 13 (Tuesday)	Introduction to the course and syllabus overview
	Feb 15 (Thursday)	Modern Novel: Text and Context
W-2	Feb 20 Tu.	Modern Novel: Text and Context

³ In case of changes to the schedule, I will notify you via Moodle.

	Feb 22 Th.	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
W-3	Feb 27 Tu.	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
	Feb 29 Th.	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
W-4	March 5- Tu.	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
	March 7 Th.	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
W-5	March 12 Tu.	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
	March 14 Th.	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
W-6	March 19 Tu.	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
	March 21 Th.	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
W-7	March 26 Tu.	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
	March 28 Th.	Academic writing revisited: how to avoid common errors and improve writing skills
W-8	April 2 Tu.	Midterm
	April 4 Th.	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i>

W-9		SPRING BREAK
W-10	April 16 Tu.	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i>
	April 18 Th.	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i>
W-11	April 23 Tu.	National Sovereignty and Children's Day (Holiday)
	April 25 Th.	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i>
W-12	April 30 Tu.	Kafka, <i>The Trial</i> Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse- Five</i>
	May 2 Th.	Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse- Five</i>
W-13	May 7 Tu.	Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse- Five</i>
	May 9 Th.	Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse- Five</i>
W-14	May 14	Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse- Five</i>
	May 16	Overall review