

EH4007: Literary Modernism

Final Essay Titles 2023

For this assignment you are required to complete TWO tasks:

- (1) Answer ONE of the essay questions below in 1,700 – 1,800 words (maximum).
- (2) Write a short personal statement (250-300 words) about your learning during the process of writing the essay: what you found challenging, what helped you learn, what surprised you. You should add this statement to the end of your essay.

Essay titles:

Answer ONE of the following questions in 1,700-1,800 words. You should avoid writing about the text discussed in your mid-term assignment.

NOTE re Qs 1 and 2: if answering on poetry please ensure that you discuss at least **two poems** in your answer.

1. In *The Common Reader*, Virginia Woolf suggests, “In the vast catastrophe of the European war our emotions had to be broken up for us, and put at an angle from us, before we could allow ourselves to feel them in poetry or fiction.” Discuss this description of the effect of the war in one or more texts covered on this course.
2. Discuss the relationship between gender and power OR race and power in one or more texts covered on this course.
3. Discuss the significance of the ‘plot-less’ nature of Virginia Woolf’s short story, ‘The Mark on the Wall’.

4. Several of the texts on this module present us with female protagonists who embody a split between the private self and its social roles. Discuss with reference to EITHER *Mrs Dalloway* OR *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.
5. How and why does Langston Hughes use musical genres like the blues and jazz in his poetry?
6. What is the role of domestic violence in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?
7. Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* offers what many critics have described as a post-apocalyptic vision of human existence. There are, however, moments of humour in this play also. Discuss the significance of representations of despair and humour in *Endgame*.
8. Explore the representation of language and miscommunication in Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. What does this representation suggest about the nature of personal relationships in this play?

Essay guidelines:

Essays should be 1,700-1,800 words in length. The essay answer should be followed by a short personal statement of 250-300 words (see details above).

You should avoid writing on the text discussed in your mid-term essay.

It is important that you generate an argument about the topic you choose to write on and avoid simply giving examples from the text in response to the essay topic. Your essay should have a central argument/thesis that is developed and explored using examples from the text to support your central argument.

It is also recommended that you refer to at least three academic secondary sources in your essay.

Essays are due by Friday 8th December 2023 (week 13) at 5pm sharp.

Essays should be submitted to the Assignments folder on your Brightspace site for the module.

All applications for extensions to submission deadlines should be made to the Module Leader. In general, applications should be made ahead of the submission date. Extensions without loss of marks will normally only be allowed where there is a relevant medical certificate or written evidence of other significant difficulties that have interrupted work. Computer problems, such as failure of printer and inability to access shared facilities, will not constitute a reason for the granting of an extension.

Referencing:

Essays should be properly referenced using the MLA style. Erasmus and Study Abroad students may use another standard referencing system with which they are familiar, such as APA or Harvard Referencing. All sources should be cited in the text and given in the Works Cited List. **Plagiarism is considered a serious offence and will result in an F grade. Similarly, the use of Artificial Intelligence is not permitted in writing this essay and will result in an F grade.** See the English Student Handbook for further information.

Web sites: Avoid the use of web sites as secondary sources. These may be a good place to begin researching a topic but are not usually so good at the sort of detailed, in-depth analysis of a topic that an essay at this level requires. Sometimes web sites can be of a poor academic standard and may contain incorrect or misleading information. Check with the lecturer if you do want to use particular web sites, and **reference them fully** if you do use them.

% of assessment: The essay is worth 50% of your overall mark for the module.