

COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Authorship and “the Author Question” in Literary Discourse	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Dr. Grant Rosson	Department of English Philology Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Seminars	Autumn (1 and 3)	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: Excellent Command of English (C 1 / C 2)	Additional requirements (if any): None.

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	150	32	118

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>This course proceeds from the premise that "author" and "authorship" are not concepts with fixed, universal, and transcendent meanings but concepts that are, and have always been, contingent and contested—products of the circumstances in which they have been deployed, often to the ends of communicating and establishing particular relationships between human subjects (real or imagined) and written texts. By reading literary works dating from the middle ages through the nineteenth century, in conjunction with recent scholarship from a range of perspectives, we will survey key instances of historical writers (and their various associates) participating in, figuring, and negotiating authorship in, and in response to, their distinct milieus. Through our reading, we will see how concern, or lack of concern, with questions of authorship informed the production of texts under a variety of circumstances—keyed to such factors as time, place, race, gender, class, and economics—and we will consider what bearing matters of authorship can and perhaps should have on critical assessment of literary texts. Rather than seeking to resolve the central question this course develops around—the question "what is an author?"—our overriding aim will be to understand and appreciate the circumstances under which such a question developed, over the course of a few centuries, into one worth asking.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<p>Generic learning outcomes: students will be able to apply knowledge in academic discourse and outside it; will be able to work autonomously, designing strategies and managing time; will develop analytical and critical thinking (ability to decide on objectives, priorities, methods, time and resources available to perform a task); will gain knowledge of the subject area, and knowledge of quality orientation (ability to advance systematically in academic work, and ability to evaluate personal achievements properly).</p> <p>Subject learning outcomes: students will be able to define the concept of authorship beyond the meaning of “attribution”; will develop a critical approach considering matters of authorship in literary discourse; will gain awareness of what influence historical</p>	<p>Reading, analysis and discussion of the text; group discussion, thought mapping.</p>	<p>Written Open-Book Exam Test (2 open-ended questions).</p>

context (social class, family, gender, identity) had on the construction of authorship.		
Students will learn about many modes of authorship through engagement with scholarship and analysis of various types of literature, in consideration of both the context of the literature's productions and its depictions of authorship / acts of creation.	Reading, analysis and discussion of the text; group discussion, thought mapping.	Written Open-Book Exam Test (2 open-ended questions).

Content: breakdown of the topics	Lectures	Seminars	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
<p>1. Introduction/Theory/Early Modern Authorship</p> <p>Dictionary entries from Samuel Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i>, Webster's <i>Dictionary</i> (1844), <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i></p> <p>William Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i></p> <p>Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author"</p> <p>Michel Foucault, "What is an Author?"</p> <p>Martha Woodmansee, "On the Author Effect: Recovering Collectivity" (1991)</p>		6	6		<p>Reading List: ← the texts in the content section; Christine Haynes, "Reassessing 'Genius' in Studies of Authorship: The State of the Discipline" (2005); Heather Hirschfeld "Early Modern Collaboration and Theories of Authorship" (2001); Emma Smith, "The Tempest," from <i>This is Shakespeare</i> (2020); Harold Love, "Defining Authorship"</p>
<p>2. 18th-Century / Rise of the Novel</p> <p>Daniel Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (1719)</p> <p>Charlotte Lennox, <i>The Female Quixote</i> (1752)</p> <p>Gerard Genette, <i>Paratexts</i>, "Introduction" and "The Functions of the Original Preface"</p> <p>Ian Watt, <i>The Rise of the Novel</i>, chs. 1-3</p> <p>Saunders and Hunter, "Historicising Authorship" (1991)</p>		8	8		<p>Reading List: ← the texts in the content section; Kate Levin, "'The Cure of Arabella's Mind': Charlotte Lennox and the Disciplining of the Female Reader" (1995); Jonathan Kramnick, "Reading Shakespeare's Novels: Literary History and Cultural Politics in the Lennox-Johnson Debate" (1994)</p>
<p>3. Romanticism</p> <p>William Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i></p> <p>William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, <i>Lyrical Ballads</i></p> <p>John Keats, selected poems, letters</p> <p>Dorothy Wordsworth, <i>The Grasmere and Alfoxden Journals</i> (selections)</p> <p>Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy" (1946)</p> <p>Cleanth Brooks, "The Heresy of Paraphrase," from <i>The Well-Wrought Urn</i> (1947)</p>		6	6		<p>Reading List: ← the texts in the content section; Jerome McGann, "Introduction" and "Distinguishing Romanticism," from <i>The Romantic Ideology</i> (1985); Clifford Siskin, "Introduction" and "The Un-Kind Imagination," from <i>The Historicity of Romantic Discourse</i> (1988); Meena Alexander, "Dorothy Wordsworth: The Grounds of Writing" (1988)</p>

4. 18 th - and 19 th -Century America Washington Irving, selections from <i>The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon</i> (1819-1820) Ralph Waldo Emerson, selected essays and journal entries (incl. "The American Scholar," "The Poet") Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Artist of the Beautiful," "The Custom-House" Walt Whitman, <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (1855)		6	6		Reading List: ← the texts in the content section; William Charvat, <i>The Profession of Authorship in America, 1800-1870</i> (1968) chs. 1-4; Michael Newbury, "Labor and Letters in Antebellum America," from <i>Figuring Authorship in Antebellum America</i> (1997); Nancy Glazener, "Women in literary culture during the long nineteenth century" (2012)
5. Female Authorship in the 19 th Century Elizabeth Barret Browning, <i>Aurora Leigh</i> Emily Dickinson, selected poems, letters, fascicles Lydia Sigourney, selected poems Helen Hunt Jackson, selected poems Sarah Piatt, selected poems Susan S. Williams, "Writing, Authorship, and Genius: Literary Women and Modes of Literary Production" (2012) Katherine Hobbs, "Sensational Autobiography: Female Authorship, Marriage, and Melodramatic Self-Representation in 1850s England" (2019)		6	6		Reading List: ← the texts in the content section; Jess Roberts, "Sarah Piatt's Grammar of Convention and the Conditions of Authorship" (2011); Alicia Holmes, "Elizabeth Barrett Browning: Construction of Authority in 'Aurora Leigh'" (1992)Elizabeth Petrino, "'Fame of Myself': Dickinson, Jackson, and the Question of Female Authorship" from <i>Emily Dickinson and Her Contemporaries</i> (1998)
Total: 150		3 2	3 2		

Assessment strategy	Weight ,%	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Written Open-Book Exam Test (2 open-ended questions).	100		<p>Grading scale:</p> <p>10 (Excellent) Excellent, outstanding knowledge and skills: the knowledge of the research material is excellent; the student demonstrates a holistic approach to the subject matter; the student coherently and logically articulates his approach to the analysis of the theme, persuasively develops the argument; the student appropriately uses a theoretical method in his analysis; the student writes in fluent academic English.</p> <p>9 (Very good) Solid, very good knowledge and skills: the knowledge of the research material is very good, the student knows how to apply it in his term paper; his arguments are logical, well-argued; the student knows and understands the key concepts; the student adequately uses a theoretical method in his analysis; the student writes in very good academic English.</p> <p>8 (Good) Above the average knowledge and skills: good knowledge of the research material; examples are given, but not interpreted; the knowledge of the major concepts is good although occasional discrepancies are observed; the structure and organisation of the paper occasionally lacks coherence, in his analysis the students draws on literary criticism; uses correct academic English.</p>

			<p>7 (Highly satisfactory): Average performance, knowledge and skills with some unessential shortcomings: the student is familiar with the research material, is able to use it independently; the analysis, however, lacks in-depth knowledge, some discrepancies, alogisms are observed; in his analysis the student draws on literary criticism; the academic English that he or she uses has flaws.</p> <p>6 (Satisfactory) Knowledge and skills are below average performance: the student knows the most part of the research material, but as he discusses it he shows lack of consistency, and logical structure; gives few examples; it seems that the student did not invest a sufficient amount of time and effort into studying the subject; the student shows an inconsistent knowledge of the subject matter; or no knowledge at all; he hardly draws on the sociohistorical, cultural, religious and philosophical context or literary criticism; academic English that he uses has many flaws.</p> <p>5 (Sufficient) Knowledge and skills meet minimum criteria: the knowledge of the research materials that the student has meets the minimum requirements of the course to get a pass; as he writes he makes major mistakes; hardly knows how to apply the knowledge he managed to obtain throughout the course; the knowledge he obtained is scarce; the student does not draw on the sociohistorical, cultural, religious and philosophical context of the period; the structure and organisation of the term paper is dramatically lacks coherence; his academic English is poor; the informal register is used throughout.</p> <p>4, 3, 2, 1 (Insufficient) Knowledge and skills do not meet minimum criteria: the student failed to master the research materials; has very poor knowledge of the subject matter; or has no knowledge at all; or the knowledge that he has is irrelevant and insufficient; the student does not use academic English.</p>
Attendance requirements			Students who do not attend seminars must independently follow the information related to the course; they should not expect any private tutorials upon the end of the course; the instructor is not responsible for their ignorance.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Primary Texts				
Blake, William	1790	<i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>		
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett	1856	<i>Aurora Leigh</i>		
Defoe, Daniel	1719	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>		
Dickinson, Emily		Selected writings		
Emerson, Ralph Waldo		Selected writings		

Hawthorne, Nathaniel		"The Artist of the Beautiful," "The Custom House"		
Irving, Washington	1819-1820	<i>The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon</i>		
Jackson, Helen Hunt		Selected poems		
Keats, John		Selected poems		
Lennox, Charlotte	1752	<i>The Female Quixote</i>		
Piatt, Sarah		Selected poems		
Shakespeare, William	1611/1623	<i>The Tempest</i>		
Whitman, Walt	1855	<i>Leaves of Grass</i>		
Wordsworth, Dorothy	1798-1803	<i>The Grasmere and Alfoxden Journals</i>		
Wordsworth, William; Coleridge, Samuel Taylor	1800	<i>Lyrical Ballads</i>		
Secondary Reading				
Alexander, Meena	1988	"Dorothy Wordsworth: The Grounds of Writing"		
Barthes, Roland	1977	"The Death of the Author"		
Cleanth Brooks	1947	<i>The Well-Wrought Urn</i>		
Charvat, William	1968	<i>The Profession of Authorship in America, 1800-1870</i>		
Foucault, Michel	1969	"What is an Author?"		
Genette, Gerard	1987	<i>Paratexts</i> , "Introduction" and "The Functions of the Original Preface"		
Glazener, Nancy	2012	"Women in Literary Culture During the Long Nineteenth Century"		
Haynes, Christine	2005	"Reassessing 'Genius' in Studies of Authorship: The State of the Discipline"		
Hirschfeld, Heather	2001	"Early Modern Collaboration and Theories of Authorship"		
Hobbs, Katherine	2019	"Sensational Autobiography: Female Authorship, Marriage, and Melodramatic Self-Representation in 1850s England"		
Holmes, Alicia	1992	"Elizabeth Barrett Browning: Construction of Authority in 'Aurora Leigh'"		
Kramnick, Jonathan	1994	"Reading Shakespeare's Novels: Literary History and Cultural Politics in the Lennox-Johnson Debate"		
Levin, Kate	1995	"'The Cure of Arabella's Mind': Charlotte Lennox and the Disciplining of the Female Reader"		
Love, Harold	2002	"Defining Authorship"		

McGann, Jerome	1985	<i>The Romantic Ideology</i>		
Newbury, Michael	1997	<i>Figuring Authorship in Antebellum America</i>		
Petrino, Elizabeth	1998	<i>Emily Dickinson and Her Contemporaries: Women's Verse in America, 1820-1885</i>		
Roberts, Jess	2011	"Sarah Piatt's Grammar of Convention and the Conditions of Authorship"		
Saunders, David and Ian Hunter	1991	"Historicising Authorship"		
Siskin, Clifford	1988	<i>The Historicity of Romantic Discourse</i>		
Smith, Emma	2020	<i>This is Shakespeare</i> (2020)		
Watt, Ian		<i>The Rise of the Novel</i>		
Williams, Susan S.	2012	"Writing, Authorship, and Genius: Literary Women and Modes of Literary Production"		
Wimsatt, W.K. and M.C. Beardsley	1946	"The Intentional Fallacy"		
Woodmansee, Martha	1991	"On the Author Effect: Recovering Collectivity"		

The course description updated on August 23, 2021