

Critical Practice Prose Handbook 2020-21

These courses have been designed to intensify your awareness of the critical tools central to the study of English Literature. In your Pre-Honours years, you were given a brief introduction to formal and critical discourses in the first semester, and over the rest of those two years you were provided with an overall sense of the historical development of literary forms and genres. Collectively, the Critical Practice (CP) courses build upon that training. The practical skills and range of knowledge acquired over the year will equip you with a command of the precise critical terminology necessary for Honours level study in both third and fourth years.

The four CP courses (Poetry, Performance, Prose, and Criticism) will expand your sensitivity to specific generic conventions and extend your knowledge of associated critical vocabulary. This, in turn, will hone your skills in the close reading, description, and analysis of a variety of texts. In the Performance course in particular you will be encouraged to reflect upon the meaning and effect of texts in relation to their staging, exploring a range of different aspects and styles of theatre.

If you have any specific queries about the courses you may consult the Course Organiser; additionally, you may consult full time members of staff during their office hours. While the CP courses do, of course, count for credit toward your degree in their own right, the skills acquired in them are also designed to be transferable. In particular, the critical terminology acquired should be used to inform your analysis of the texts you study in the rest of your Honours courses, including your Dissertation (where appropriate).

General Information

COURSE ORGANISER: Dr Jonathan Wild (J.Wild@ed.ac.uk)

COURSE ADMINISTRATOR: Sheila Strathdee (S.Strathdee@ed.ac.uk)

Credit Weighting

All Critical Practice courses are worth 10 credits each.

Rationale

The course will examine a range of English prose and narrative forms, their historical development and social context, and theories and tactics established for their analysis. It aims to improve students' knowledge of these areas, along with their reading and interpretative skills and proficiencies. Theories and ideas will be discussed and their implications for primary critical analysis demonstrated and explored.

The 4 specific "learning outcomes" are available on the CP Prose Learn page.

Set Texts

There are no primary literary texts as such; students are encouraged to draw upon whatever primary texts best exemplify their specific arguments about prose, in the context of the question. You are permitted to use examples from texts that you have studied on other courses in the exam, although you may not repeat material from other assessments. You are also free to draw on your wider reading, as appropriate.

For each block, the lecturer will provide a list of readings they will discuss in the lecture, and links to online versions, where available. They will also supply a list of further readings you might wish to consult in light of the lecture.

Assessment

The course will be assessed in two parts:

Assessment Part 1 (40%). Essay of 1,000 words due **before 2pm on Monday 22 February 2021**

Assessment Part 2 (60%): Essay of 1,500 words due **before 2pm on Monday 5 April 2021**

Assessment for this course consists of these two essays: In the first essay, you will be asked to analyse a passage of prose narrative in the light of the ideas and topics discussed during the course. Your analysis will be expected to pay particular attention to technical and stylistic features of the selected passage. You might think of this essay as a tradition 'close reading'. In the

second essay you will be required to write an essay in response to a question addressing one or more of the ideas and topics raised by the material from the lectures.

A rubric and full instructions will accompany the questions. Please read these carefully, as rubric violations may be subject to a penalty of ten marks.

Critical Practice: Prose

Semester 2

Session 2020-21

SCHEDULE

Question and Answer Discussion Board sessions are on **Mondays from 12 to 1** in Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. See link to Discussion Board in left-hand menu on LEARN for the course.

Week 1 (week beginning Monday 11 January 2021)	Intro lecture: Admin, plus Prose and Narratology Monday: "Course Welcome and Admin" video recording now posted under "Course Materials"	Dr Kenneth Millard
Week 2	Theories of Narratology	Dr Alex Lawrie
Week 3	Q and A on week 2	
Week 4	Genre	Katherine Inglis
Week 5	Q and A on Genre	
Week beginning Monday 15 February	Flexible Learning Week	
Week 6	Metafiction plus Mid-term assessment due, CP Prose Assessment 1, Deadline: before 2 pm, on Monday 22 February 2021	Dr Keith Hughes
Week 7	Q and A on Metafiction	
Week 8	Free Indirect Style and Stream of Consciousness	Dr Alex Lawrie

Week 9	Q and A on FIS and S of C	
Week 10	Postcolonial Narrative	Dr Michelle Keown
Week 11	Q and A on Postcolonial Narrative plus short video on assessment plus Q and A on assessment	
Friday 2 April 2021	Semester 2 ends	
Monday 5 April	Final assessment due, CP Prose Assessment 2, Deadline: before 2 pm, on Monday 5 April 2021	

Recommended Further Reading

Lectures may well draw on the following texts, some of which could therefore usefully be consulted:

Bal, Mieke, *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative* (New Edition, University of Toronto Press, 1997)

Belsey, Catherine, *Critical Practice* (New edition, Routledge: 2001)

Booth, Wayne C., *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (University of Chicago Press, 1961)

Chatman, Seymour, *Coming to Terms: The Rhetoric of Narrative in Fiction and Film* (Cornell University Press, 1990)

Cohn, Dorrit, *Transparent Minds: Narrative Modes for Presenting Consciousness in Fiction* (Princeton University Press, 1978)

Genette, Gérard, *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method* (Cornell University Press, 1983)

Lodge, David, *The Art of Fiction: Illustrated from Classic and Modern Texts* (Penguin, 1993)

----- *The Modes of Modern Writing: Metaphor, Metonymy, and the Typology of Modern Literature* (University of Chicago Press, 1989)

Miller, J. Hillis, *Reading Narrative* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1998)

Prince, Gerald, *A Dictionary of Narratology* (Scolar Press, 1987)

Scoles, Robert, *The Nature of Narrative* (Oxford University Press, 1966)

Waugh, Patricia, *Metafiction: the Theory and Practice of Self-Conscious Fiction* (Methuen, 1984)

Rimmon-Kenan, Shlomith, *Narrative Fiction, Contemporary Poetics*, (Routledge, 2002).