

**ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty of Science and Letters**

**Department of English Language and Literature**

**ELL 463 Single Author Study (303-04)**

**Course Syllabus**

**Lecturer:** Özge Üstündağ Güvenç

**Course Hours:** Thursday 13:20-16:10 **Classroom: RA 06**

**Office Hours:** Monday 9:20-11:10

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**Course Description**

This course concentrates on the works of a single author, their contexts of production and reception, and their implications; the specific author selected will vary depending on the instructor and the semester, and may be a writer, artist, musician, film-maker, scientist, critic, or theorist. The contexts of production of the works may cover the author’s historical period, contemporaries, and cultural circumstances, or interdisciplinary philosophical and aesthetic frameworks; reception contexts may include critical responses to these works, their subsequent effects and influences, or engagements with them by various other authors and audiences.

**Course Requirements**

As the course aims to enhance students’ reading skills and oral interpretation abilities, which are necessary in evaluating literature, course activities will be based on pair works, group and class discussions. Therefore, for each class, students are expected to:

1. Read the assigned text(s) for that week

2. Bring the text with them and be ready to discuss it in class

3. Bring pen, pencil and paper to be able to take notes

4. Actively involve in class and group discussions

4. Turn off their mobile phones during class

5. Attend all classes. (The students who do not attend the classes regularly may fail the course with NA grade and have to repeat the course. The absenteeism limit for this course is 9 hours.)

**Course Material**

The photocopy of the course pack will be available in the photocopy room.

**Means of Evaluation**

**Grading**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment Tool** | **Quantity** | **Percentage** |
| **In-class Discussion / Participation in class activities** |  | 5 % |
| **Response Papers\*** | 10 | 20 % |
| **Student Presentations \*\*** | 1 | 15 % |
| **Midterm Exam**  | 1 | 25 % |
| **Final Exam** | 1 | 35 % |

* Students are required to write **response papers** on the assigned short stories. The response paper should include the following:

-a comment on what you liked the most about the assigned stories

-a paragraph/a sentence/ an expression/ a phrase standing out for you in the story and a brief explanation as to why it is interesting or remarkable

-a discussion question about the story and a response to the question

- your reaction and personal reflections with an analytical perspective

- relationships with your previous readings and personal experiences

The response papers should be **individual work**; each student is required to write it on their own. Any instance of **plagiarism** will result in lower grades.

**!!! Please, do not write a plot summary of the story.**

* Students are required to give a **ten-minute presentation** on the assigned short story. The organisation of the presentation and its content will be determined in accordance with the **evaluation criteria in the rubric**.

**Weekly Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Content** |
| **23-27 Sep.** **Week 1** | **Introduction to the Course*** Brief information about **Doris Lessing** (1919-2013):

 **life, works** and **experimental writing style*** Doris Lessing and **her contemporaries**
 |
| **30 Sep.-4 Oct.****Week 2** | Introduction to the historical and social background * **Impact of colonialism** on Lessing’s life and works
* Analysis of exerpts from

***Going Home* (1957), *Under My Skin* (1994), *African Laughter* (1992)** |
| **7-11 Oct.****Week 3** | Introduction to the historical and social background * **Impact of World War I and II** on Lessing’s life and works
* Analysis of exerpts from ***Walking In the Shade* (1997)**
* Doris Lessing as a feminist author
* Analysis of the **Preface to *The Golden Notebook* (1962)**
 |
| **14-18 Oct.****Week 4** | Introduction to her short fiction * First volume of African Stories - ***This Was the Old Chief’s Country* (1951)**
* Analysis and discussion of **“The Old Chief Mshlanga”**
* Comparative study of **“The Old Chief Mshlanga”** and **“A Sunrise on the Veld**”
 |
| **21-25 Oct.****Week 5** | * Analysis and discussion of **“Leopard George”**
 |
| **30 Oct.-1 Nov.****Week 6** | * Analysis and discussion of **“The De Wets Come to Kloof Grange”**
 |
| **4-8 Nov.****Week 7** | Introduction to the second volume of African Stories - ***The Sun Between Their Feet* (1973)*** Analysis and discussion of **“Getting off the Altitude”**
 |
| **11-15 Nov.****8** | **MIDTERM WEEK** |
| **18-22 Nov.****Week 9** | Introduction to the first volume of European stories – ***To Room Nineteen* (1978)*** Analysis and discussion of **“To Room Nineteen”**
 |
| **25-29 Nov.****Week 10** | * Analysis and discussion of **“A Woman on a Roof”**
 |
| **2-6 Dec.****Week 11** | Introduction to the second volume of European stories - *The Temptation of Jack Orkney* (1978) Analysis and discussion of “An Old Woman and Her Cat” |
| **9-13 Dec.****Week 12** | Introduction to Lessing’s sketches - ***The Temptation of Jack Orkney* (1978)*** A comparative analysis and discussion of **“A Year in Regent’s Park”** and **“Report on the Threatened City”**
 |
| **16-20 Dec.****Week 13** | Introduction to ***London Observed Stories and Sketches* (1957)**A comparative analysis and discussion of “Storms” and “In Defence of the Underground” |
| **23-27 Dec.****Week 14** | **REVISION WEEK**  |

**☺ HAVE A GOOD SEMESTER ☺**