**ELL 641 Special Topics in Literature (2020-2021 FALL)**

**Instructor: Prof. Dr. Ertuğrul Koç**

**(ELL 641-541)**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: This course provides an opportunity for a specific focus on aspects of a period, movement or genre, such as transnational literary influences, marginal genres, scientific, artistic or political texts and movements, etc. Apart from historical context, theoretical and critical responses to visual and literary material will be taken into consideration.

**COURSE CONTENT**: Works from 19th and 20th centuries will be focused on. Early nineteenth century romantic and Victorian poetry will be dealt with in comparison with each other and in line with the burgeoning bourgeois culture. Leading novelists of the 19th century will also be dealt with as the new artists of bourgeois paradigm through whose epoch-making works we will try to see the social, political, and economic changes in the 19th century. The paradigm shift from the Victorian to the modern age will be analysed over the representative works in both poetry and prose.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will be asked to write two term-papers of original content evaluating the age over representative literary works and with a critical focus. The first paper will focus on a poet (or a novelist) and his/her work(s) from the early or mid-nineteenth century (either romantic or Victorian). The second paper will deal either with the mid-Victorian or with the Late-Victorian novelists.

**GRADING:** Each of the two term-papers will be evaluated over 40, and the two term-papers will make 80 out of 100. The remaining 20 points will be acquired by the response papers and by attendance and class participation.

**Weekly Course Content:**

**Week 1.** Industrial Revolution and the age of revolutions. Bourgeoisie versus aristocracy. The emergence of a new class and a new culture. Bourgeois worldview becoming the major cultural ethos. (*Norton Anthology of English Literature* Vol.II)

**Week 2.** The influence of American and French Revolutions over the first and second generation of romantic poets and gothicists. The shift from Neoclassicism to Romanticism. William Blake’s “The Lamb” and “The Tyger”; William Wordsworth’s “Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*”, and “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood”; Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”.

**Week 3.** Second generation of romantic poets: Byron, Shelley, and Keats. Byron’s “She Walks in Beauty” and “When We Two Parted”; Shelley’s “Mutability” and “Ozymandias”; Keats’s “Ode to a Nightingale”

**Week 4.** A marginal genre: Gothic literature. Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. (Submission of the first paper)

**Week 5**. Victorian Poetry.John Stuart Mill’s “What is Poetry?” (*Norton Anthology of English Literature* Vol.II), Alfred Lord Tennyson’s “The Lotos-Eaters”. Matthew Arnold’s “Dower Beach”

**Week 6.** Victorian novel. Charles Dickens’s *Great Expectations*

**Week 7.** Victorian novel. Charles Dickens’s *Great Expectations*

**Week 8.** Victorian novel. George Eliot’s *Silas Marner*

**Week 9.** The end of Victorianism and the emergence of the modern period.

**Week 10.** Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.

**Week 11.** Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.

**Week 12.** Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness.*

**Week 13.** Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness.* (Submission of one of the works on either Victorian or post-Victorian period)

**Week 14.** Review week.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are expected to join the ZOOM meetings on time and having read the assigned texts.

Students are expected to upload their response papers (when assigned) and their term-papers (on the specified date) to WEBONLINE for grading.

Term papers will not be less than 10 pages (reference and cover pages excluded), and MLA stylesheet will be followed while writing the paper. At least 5 sources (other than the main source) and sufficient number of appropriate references to support the argument are required.

**Textbooks to Follow**: *Norton Anthology of English Literature Vol. II., Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, *Silas Marner* by George Eliot, Tess *of the D’Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad.