

**ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**FALL 2025-2026**

**Yağmur Sönmez-Demir, Ph.D.**  
**Office phone:** 0312 2331415

**Email:** yagmurs@cankaya.edu.tr  
**Office hours:** Monday 14.00-16.00,  
Wednesday 10.00-11.30, or by  
appointment

**ELL 458 Popular Literature and Culture      Course Syllabus**

**Course Description**

This course focuses on genres like crime novels and science fiction, as well as on mass media, movies, and television.

In this course students will:

- analyze popular fiction, movies, television, etc.
- comment on the value of individual works.
- study the role and impact of popular culture on society.

**Course Material**

Selected readings/excerpts and literary texts will be uploaded on webonline. It is highly recommended you have hard copies of the texts and bring them to class with you.

**Course Requirements and Means of Evaluation**

- Please do **NOT** use your mobile phones and do **NOT** record my voice or video during the courses.
- 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.
- Please be warned that plagiarism of even one sentence can result in a lowering of your grade or a direct F on your assignment. Discrepancy between examples of the student's writing, suspected plagiarism or unethical use of AI technology will be evaluated by the professor and the department academic board, and measures will be taken accordingly. **Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated.**
- Please read the texts before coming to the class and be ready to discuss them.

Final grades will include:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Contribution to and Participation in Class Work | 5 %  |
| 2. Midterm Exam                                    | 40 % |
| 3. Oral Presentation                               | 15 % |
| 4. Final Exam                                      | 40 % |

**Please note that the schedule below is tentative, some changes could be made.**

| <b>WEEKLY SCHEDULE</b> |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>1.</b> 29 September | Introduction to the course<br>Popular literature, culture and popular icons  |
| <b>2.</b> 6 October    | “What is Popular Culture?” by John Storey<br>“Bestsellers” From <i>Pulp Fiction</i>  |
| <b>3.</b> 13 Oct.      | Introduction to Fantasy<br>“The Truth is a Cave in the Black Mountains” by Neil Gaiman   |
| <b>4.</b> 20 Oct.      | Science Fiction and Young Adult fiction<br>Kazuo Ishiguro’s <i>Never Let Me Go</i> - Part I  |
| <b>5.</b> 27 Oct.      | <i>Never Let Me Go</i> – Part II   |
| <b>6.</b> 3 November   | <i>Never Let Me Go</i> - Part III  |
| <b>7.</b> (10-14 Nov.) | <b>Midterm Exam Week</b>   |
| <b>8.</b> 17 Nov.      | Introduction to Detective Fiction<br>“The Dream” by Agatha Christie  |
| <b>9.</b> 24 Nov.      | Introduction to Gothic<br>“The Sandman” by E.T.A. Hoffman  |
| <b>10.</b> 1 December  | Introduction to Comic books<br>Akira (vol. 1, no 1 & 2) by Katsuhiro Otomo   |
| <b>11.</b> 8 Dec.      | Popular Music and literature<br>A Case Study: Bob Dylan  |
| <b>12.</b> 15 Dec.     | Literature in the age of digital media (tiktok lit, instapoetry etc)<br>Digital Fiction “Flight Paths” by by Kate Pullinger and Chris Joseph |
| <b>13.</b> 22 Dec.     | Global popular culture (k-pop, anime, Chinese food etc)<br>Students’ Presentations   |
| <b>14.</b> 29 Dec.     | Review & Students’ Presentations   |