Learning Outcomes

The student should be able to

1 Show a knowledge and understanding of social, political and cultural contexts of production
2 Discuss literary texts in terms of language, form and structure and how these shape meaning
3 Consider different interpretations of the texts with an evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses

Assessment Criteria

The student can

1.1 Select and discuss relevant issues arising from the themes in the text
1.2 Make links between text and context
2.1 Use appropriate critical vocabulary to discuss one or two selected novels
2.2 Analyse key features of language, form and structure to evaluate how they shape meaning
3.1 Explore one or more theoretical approaches to the novels/texts
3.2 Use a selection of references from the texts and critical material to support evaluation

Assessment Methodology

Grading of this Unit

The following grade descriptors will be applied to the assessment of this unit:

1 Understanding of the Subject
2 Application of Knowledge
3 Application of Skills
4 Use of Information
7 Quality

Please refer to the QAA Grade Descriptors for detail of the components of each descriptor
Indicative Content

Please note that the indicative content supplied below is intended as a suggested guide only. It is not meant to be a prescriptive, exhaustive or fully delivered content list.

1  Show a knowledge and understanding of social, political and cultural contexts of production

1.1  Select and discuss relevant issues arising from the themes in the text
Identify and be able to discuss relevant themes within text, as relevant to the specific novel/novels chosen

1.2  Make links between text and context
Draw out links between the ideas of the novel and the contemporary context
Discuss links between the themes, characters, language or ideas and the contemporary social, historical, cultural context
Show awareness of the significant features of the contemporary context which relates to the ideas of the novel and/or the author

2  Demonstrate the ability to discuss literary texts in terms of language, form and structure and how these shape meaning

2.1  Identify one or two selected novels and describe how to interpret the text
Use short selective quotations to illustrate the ideas of the novel(s) and how these are expressed by the author
Be able to identify the key features of the text for discussion – in terms of themes, character, plot, setting or style

2.2  Use appropriate critical vocabulary to discuss the text
Utilise appropriate critical vocabulary relating to themes, character, plot, setting or style as appropriate

2.3  Analyse key features of language, form and structure to evaluate how they shape meaning
Show awareness of the text as a construct, by analysing key features to show how meaning is made, e.g. characteristic dialogue belonging to specific characters, a didactic authorial voice, features of structure such as frame narratives, unreliable narrators. Discuss how these choices impact on the reading of the novel

3  Consider different interpretations of the texts with an evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses

3.1  Explore one or more theoretical approaches to the novels/texts
Select possible theoretical approaches – feminist/gendered/queer, Marxist, historicism, psychoanalytic, etc. – as appropriate to the text
Test out theories against the text – if possible compare theories to explore which provide helpful insights into the text

3.2  Use a selection of references from the texts and critical material to support evaluation
Reference work appropriately
Any standard academic referencing system can be used – it should be agreed within the centre and consistent across the English groups