

Outras Literaturas de Expresión Inglesa “The Literature of Australia”

Prof. José Liste Noya
e-mail: jliste@udc.es
Office hours:

Course description:

An introduction to one of the 'new' world literatures in English, that of Australia, an example of what has been called a 'postcolonial' culture though not a 'Third World' country. This ambivalence, that of a so-called postcolonial, 'settler' culture, is one of the guiding perspectives of this course as it proceeds to chart the main thematic and stylistic concerns of Australian literature and its cultural context. Viewing of selected Australian films complement our reading of some of the 'classical' texts of the literature, offering another perspective on the construction of 'Australianness'.

Objectives:

Acquire a working knowledge of the contours and concerns of Australian literature, especially the ability to identify and situate it within its specific cultural contexts; initiation in the employment of a 'postcolonial' theoretical perspective as a means of analysing and questioning the construction of a specifically 'Australian' literature and culture; develop reading strategies that enable one to establish a methodological convergence of formalist and cultural-historical approaches.

Assessment:

Class participation & presentations: 30%
Take-home exam: 20%
Essay (2000-2500 words): 25%
Final exam: 25%

Reading list:

NOTE: all material will be made available in photocopied form given the near-impossibility, currently, of acquiring this material firsthand.

Selection of exploration narratives & early colonial verse.

A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson, ballads: "The Man from Snowy River", "On Kiley's Run", "Conroy's Gap", "Saltbush Bill", "Waltzing Matilda", "Old Australian Ways"

Henry Lawson, stories: "The Drover's Wife", "The Bush Undertaker", "The Loaded Dog", "Water Them Geraniums".

Barbara Baynton, selected stories from *Bush Studies* (1902): "The Dreamer", "Squeaker's Mate", "Billy Skywonkie", "The Chosen Vessel".

Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career* (1901)

Katharine Susannah Prichard, *Coonardoo* (1929)

Patrick White, "Willy-wagtails by Moonlight" (1964), "Down at the Dump" (1964)

Thomas Keneally, *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1972)

Mudrooroo, *Doctor Wooreddy's Prescription for Enduring the Ending of the World* (1983)

David Malouf, *Remembering Babylon* (1993)

Selection of contemporary short fiction:

Peter Carey, "American Dreams" (1974)

Murray Bail, "The Drover's Wife" (1975)

Tim Winton, "Neighbours" (1985)

Thea Astley, "Heart is Where the Home Is" (1987)

Elizabeth Jolley, "Poppy Seed and Sesame Rings" (1982)

Lily Brett, "What Do You Know About Friends?" (1990)

Beverly Farmer, "Ismini" (1983)

Helen Garner, "What We Say"

Gerald Murnane, "Land Deal" (1990)

David Malouf, "The Only Speaker of His Tongue" (1985)

Reading schedule

Week 1:

Mapping Terra Australis: discovering, exploring, taking possession, making sense.

- Exploration narratives: William Dampier, Joseph Banks, Watkin Tench
- Early colonial verse: "Van Diemen's Land"; "The Female Transport"; "The Song of the Transportationist"; Barron Field, "The Kangaroo"; Richard Whately, "There is a Place in Distant Seas"; "A Hot Day in Sydney"; John Dunmore Lang, "Colonial Nomenclature".

Week 2:

Mapping Australia: convicts, land, nation.

- 19th century exploration narratives: Charles Sturt, Edward John Eyre

- More colonial verse: ; Robert Lowe, "Songs of the Squatters, I and II"; Louisa Meredith, "Tasmanian Scenes"; "John Gilbert was a Bushranger"; E. J. Overbury, "The Springtime it Brings On the Shearing"; Ada Cambridge, "The Future Verdict"; W. T. Goodge, "Federation".

The Bush Mythos I.

- A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson: "The Man from Snowy River", "On Kiley's Run", "Conroy's Gap", "Saltbush Bill", "Waltzing Matilda", "Old Australian Ways"

Week 3 & 4:

The Bush mythos II.

- Henry Lawson: "The Drover's Wife", "The Bush Undertaker", "The Loaded Dog", "Water Them Geraniums"
- Barbara Baynton, *Bush Studies*.

Film: *Sunday Too Far Away*.

Week 5 & 6:

Women in a male culture.

- Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career*

Film: *My Brilliant Career*

Week 7 & 8:

Representing the Aboriginal I.

- Katharine Susannah Prichard, *Coonardoo*

Week 9 & 10:

Representing the Aboriginal II.

- Thomas Keneally, *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*

Film: *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*.

Week 11 & 12:

Making a national identity.

- Peter Carey, "American Dreams"
- David Malouf, *Fly Away Peter*

Film: *Gallipoli*.

Week 13:

(Un)Making identities, male, female, other.

- Patrick White, "Willy-wagtails by Moonlight"
- Murray Bail, "The Drover's Wife"
- Thea Astley, "Northern Belle"
- Tim Winton, "Blood and Water"

Week 14 & 15:

Return to beginnings: Aboriginal 'representations'.

- Mudrooroo, *Doctor Wooreddy's Prescription for Enduring the Ending of the World*

Film: *Walkabout*.