

## Faculty of Arts and Letters



### GERM2325 Special topics : Contemporary English literature

[30h] 4 credits

This two-yearly course is taught in 2007-2008, 2009-2010,...

This course is taught in the 2nd semester

**Teacher(s):** Véronique Bragard  
**Language:** English  
**Level:** Second cycle

#### Aims

Students will be expected to grasp the poetics of various contemporary works and the different ways in which those works interact. They will also become familiar with several movements or trends that have shaped contemporary literature in English. The module is also indirectly meant to increase the students' lexical skills. Their analyses will therefore have to reflect a command of the English language that corresponds to their level (3rd or 4th year).

#### Main themes

The lectures are designed to provide close analyses of selected texts - these can be English or American, modern or contemporary (i.e. post-1945). Students are encouraged to develop a critical reflexion on the formal and thematic evolution of modern literature in English, and more especially on the links between that evolution and the history of ideas, scientific and technical progress, as well as changes in social structures, aesthetic principles and ideology.

#### Content and teaching methods

##### American Women Writers

We will deal with short fiction and poetry by American women writers from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, including Emily Dickinson, Edith Wharton, Gertrude Stein, Sylvia Plath, and Bobbie Ann Mason. Among other things, we will consider not only how these writers depicted the experience of women but also how they defined themselves as women writers. How do women writers depict women's struggle for power and autonomy? Does their literature criticize the limitations of traditional women's roles? How? How do women writers develop their own voices in a literary landscape largely dominated by men? How does gender intersect with class, economic status, and ethnic identity?

#### Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Prerequisites : GERM 1226, GERM 1225 or equivalent modules (introductions to English literature). The set texts (ca. 4 books) should be read before each seminar.

Evaluation : an oral exam and a written essay.

Teaching materials : a booklet is handed out to the students at the first lecture. It includes a list of set texts, details about the organisation of the module, a selection of excerpts, a list of questions and a bibliography.

Oterhs : students are invited to take an active part in the module.

**Other credits in programs**

<b>GERM21</b>	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
<b>GERM21/BD</b>	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM21/BN</b>	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM21/DB</b>	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM21/NB</b>	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Anglais)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM22</b>	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
<b>GERM22/BD</b>	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM22/BN</b>	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM22/DB</b>	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
<b>GERM22/NB</b>	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Anglais)	(4 credits)