

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

#### Seminar 4: Century British Fiction (2AN1437)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps, Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Patrick Vincent

#### Contenu

What did it mean to be a woman in 19th century Britain? This seminar will address the so-called 'woman question' through the perspective of four of the century's best-loved heroines, Anne Elliot, Jane Eyre, Maggie Tulliver, and Tess d'Urbeville. Although the ideal of culture was associated with masculinity, all four women arguably belong to the 'female Bildungsroman' genre, or coming of age novel. By dramatizing their struggle to develop as free individuals, these four classics, spanning the century from 1818 to 1891, provide insight into the period's ideology of separate spheres, but also into other explosive issues including class, race, and religion.

We will read these four novels alongside primary and secondary texts to help better understand their literary backgrounds and historical context(s), including questions of genre and women's writing, as well as debates on family, empire, industrialization, education, utilitarianism, evangelicalism, women's emancipation and Darwin's theory of Evolution. Beyond introducing students to a literary period and in particular to its major genre, the Realist novel, the course aims to show how writing can be both critical and constitutive of the era's Liberal, middle-class ideology of individualism and progress.

#### OBJECTIFS D'APPRENTISSAGE

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history.
- To improve oral-presentation and writing skills in English.
- To improve research skills, notably by preparing on oral presentation, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into the essay.
- To learn about nineteenth-century British history, society, and culture.

#### COMPETENCES TRANSFERABLES

oral discussion skills (in English)

close reading skills

critical thinking skills

argumentative writing skills

general knowledge in history and culture

#### Forme de l'évaluation

Ev. Int.: One in-class oral presentation (20%) and two short essays (4-6 double-spaced pages) (80%; students get once chance to rewrite a failed essay).

#### Documentation

Persuasion, Jane Austen, Penguin or Oxford World Classics

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë, Penguin or Oxford World Classics

The Mill on the Floss, George Eliot, Penguin or Oxford World Classics

Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy, Penguin or Oxford World Classics

Available at Payot or online

#### Pré-requis

'Lecture 4 : Introduction to Modern British Literature' is recommended but not required.

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##### **Forme de l'enseignement**

Seminar format: 20% lecture, 20 % student presentations, 60% in-class discussion. Because this course is mainly discussion-driven, attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences can lead to a fail.