

Course Plan: Modern Novel

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Stage: 4<sup>th</sup>

## Subject Name

Modern Novel Fourth-Year General Education Department

## Objectives

1. Students will analyze themes, narrative techniques, character development, and symbolism in modern novels to foster deeper literary interpretation and appreciation.
2. Students will explore how historical, political, and cultural contexts influence the content and style of modern novels, enhancing their ability to contextualize literature.
3. Students will compare and contrast different modern novels, identifying trends, innovations, and recurring motifs within the genre and across various authors and regions.
4. Students will articulate informed arguments about modern novels through structured essays, presentations, and discussions, using appropriate literary terminology and critical theory.

## Importance of the Course

The modern novel course enriches fourth-year General Education students by deepening their understanding of literature's reflection on identity, society, and the human experience. It develops critical thinking, cultural awareness, and communication skills, while connecting literary study to real-world issues. As a capstone, it prepares students for thoughtful engagement beyond the university.

## Ways of Evaluation

1. Final Examination: 50 marks
2. Midterm Examination: 20 marks
3. Activities and Participation: 30 marks

## Evaluation Breakdown

### Final Examination

The final examination will assess students' ability to:

- Explain major themes of the novels studied.
- Description of character's development in the modern novel.
- Setting influence the plot in a chosen novel?
- Understanding the modern age literature.

### Midterm Examination

The midterm examination will test students on:

- The term modernism and explain how it relates to the modern novel.
- Identify a key conflict in one of the novels studied so far and explain its significance
- What distinguishes the modern novel from earlier literary forms?

### Activities and Participation

Marks will be awarded based on:

- Active participation in weekly exercises.
- Consistent effort in reading, role playing, and understanding the Literature
- Completion of assignments and peer feedback tasks.
- Demonstration of improvement and commitment to participate in art galleries

### Week-by-Week Topics

Week	Topic	Activities
1	Basics of Modern Literature	Introduction to modernism; literary trends; discussion on what makes a novel "modern."
2	Introducing Key Modern Authors	Overview of 20th-century authors (e.g., Woolf, Joyce, Camus); short group presentations.
3	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> – Chapters 1–2	Read/discuss setting, tone, introduction of characters; group analysis of the island as a symbol.
4	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> – Chapters 3–4	Explore early power dynamics and symbolism (conch, glasses); reflective writing.
5	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> – Chapters 5–6	Class debate: Order vs Chaos; analyze fear and the "beast."
6	Literary Themes in the Modern Novel	Lecture on major themes (loss of innocence, savagery, human nature); connect with the novel.
7	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> – Chapters 7–8	Analyze character development (Jack, Ralph); group discussion on leadership and morality.
8	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	Written exam covering Weeks 1–7 (concepts + novel analysis).
9	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> – Chapters 9–10	Study climax of the novel; discuss Simon's death, moral collapse, and groupthink.

10	Allegory and Symbolism in Modern Novels	Lecture: allegory in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ; symbols (Piggy, fire, conch) in modern texts.
11	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> – Chapters 11–12	Analyze resolution; character arcs and final messages; group presentations on major themes.
12	Comparative Reading: Other Modern Novels	Short excerpts from <i>1984</i> , <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> , or <i>Things Fall Apart</i> ; compare tone, themes.
13	Critical Theory & Literary Lenses	Introduce basic approaches: psychoanalytic, postcolonial, Marxist reading of <i>Lord of the Flies</i> .
14	Review and Final Essay Workshop	Review major themes and chapters; thesis writing practice for final essay; peer review.
15	<b>Final Examination</b>	Comprehensive final exam: includes essay, passage analysis, and thematic questions.

## References

- Golding, W. (1954). *Lord of the flies*. Faber & Faber.  
*The primary novel studied in the course.*
- Bloom, H. (Ed.). (2008). *William Golding's Lord of the flies (Bloom's modern critical interpretations)*. Chelsea House Publishers.  
*A collection of scholarly essays offering diverse perspectives on the novel.*
- Bradbury, M., & McFarlane, J. (Eds.). (1991). *Modernism: 1890–1930*. Penguin Books.  
*A foundational work for understanding the origins and development of literary modernism.*
- Childs, P. (2008). *Modernism* (2nd ed.). Routledge.  
*A clear and concise introduction to the modernist period, including its themes and key authors.*
- Faulkner, P. (1990). *Modernism*. Methuen.  
*Explores cultural and literary changes during the modern age, ideal for contextual understanding.*
- Barry, P. (2020). *Beginning theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory* (4th ed.). Manchester University Press.