

# ENGLISH LITERATURE 2018 ~ 2019

## About the Teacher

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Dr Ahmed is a scholar of comparative literature. His interests cover various aspects of literature, art and culture. He is author of *America in Literature and Film* (2011), *Woman in Lars von Trier's Cinema* (2016), and has contributed various articles to *The Comparatist* (2008), *female/bodies* (2005, 2006), *Scope* (2008), *Sexuality and Culture* (2014), *The Palgrave Handbook of Literature and the City* (2016) and Bloomsbury's *Lars von Trier's Women* (2016). Dr. Ahmed is an HKU SPACE teacher since 2007.

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## Literature Forums

@ HKU SPACE –

the Latest Development

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With the fast-growing technological advancement, the idea of online reading/writing and literature forums has emerged at SPACE. With Dr Ahmed's help, SPACE developed its first-ever literature courses in an innovative mode; combining classroom teaching, online reading/writing in forum mode, and face to face group discussion in order to effectively form an ongoing process of learning, continuous engagement with and appreciation of art and literature.

There will be FOUR different forums:

- 1 Art Forum
  - 2 Shakespearean Forum
  - 3 Philosophy Forum
  - 4 Film Forum
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Details can be found: [www.hkuspace.hku.hk](http://www.hkuspace.hku.hk)

May 2018 Issue



# Literary Studies

HKU SPACE

with

Dr Ahmed Elbeshlawy

<http://hkuspace.hku.hk/interest/languages/english/literature-in-english>

Ms Angel Lau 3762 0805  
[angel.kla.lau@hkuspace.hku.hk](mailto:angel.kla.lau@hkuspace.hku.hk)

# Love and its Cultural Politics

Course code: ELIT9098

Application code: 1660-1224NW

As a subject in philosophy, a trope in literature, and a most common theme in cinema, love is a master signifier in language for all its unsatisfactory definitions. Looking at various cinematic productions, this course explores the idea of love as a sign of being as well as non-being, as both confirmation and destabilisation of identity at once; hence, as an attraction and a danger.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

Falling in love with the exotic

### Session 2

Problems of the 'other' in love

### Session 3

Love and melancholy

### Session 4

Falling in love with the gaze

### Session 5

Love and self-destruction

## Course Dates

► 5 Wednesday evenings

► December 12, 19, 2018; January 2, 9, 16, 2019

► 7.00 – 10.00 pm

## Course Fee

► HK\$2,800

(Third Age Learner's Rate: \$2,240)

## Venue

► Hong Kong side (To be announced)

# Literature

- 1 Reading Short Stories
  - 2 Reading Drama
  - 3 An Introduction to Shakespearean Tragedies
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# On the Politics/Aesthetics of Art

Course code: ELIT9041

Application code: 1650-2544NW

Looking at different works of art, this course investigates the problems of the fundamental human impulse to interpret art as a mode of social or political resistance to power as compared to the apolitical enjoyment of the aesthetics of art as such. It aims to analyze our present postmodern experience of art in which the art consumer is radically divided between possible erotics of art and a violent return to the tradition of interpretation.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

On Painting

### Session 2

On Photography

### Session 3

On Filmmaking

### Session 4

On Sculpture and Interpretation

### Session 5

On Music

## Course Dates

- ▶ 5 Wednesday evenings
- ▶ October 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 2018
- ▶ 7.00 – 10.00 pm

## Course Fee

- ▶ HK\$2,800  
(Third Age Learner's Rate: \$2,240)

## Venue

- ▶ Hong Kong side (To be announced)

# Reading Short Stories

Course code: ELIT9100

Application code: 1680-1166NW

This course explores the idea of storytelling through reading the works of some of the short story's most prominent writers. It deals with fundamental questions like: Why do people need to tell, read, write and listen to fictional stories? By examining the aesthetics as well as the politics of storytelling, the course aims at shedding some light on the different themes generated by narration and revealing the void that lies beneath man's sense of identity.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

Borges's *The Garden of Forking Paths*

### Session 2

Chekhov's *In the Ravine*

### Session 3

Wilde's *The Portrait of Mr. W. H.*

### Session 4

Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*

### Session 5

Kleist's *Michael Kohlhaas*

## Course Dates

- ▶ 5 Wednesday evenings
- ▶ April 17, 24; May 8, 15, 22, 2019
- ▶ 7.00 – 10.00 pm

## Course Fee

- ▶ HK\$2,800

## Venue

- ▶ Hong Kong side (To be announced)

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should have a good reading knowledge of English, a willingness to participate in discussion and, above all, an interest in literature

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# Reading Drama

Course code: ELIT9089

Application code: 1670-1283NW

From classical Greek drama to contemporary theatre, the stage has always been an integral part of the human experience. The course looks at selective moments in the history of drama in which certain playwrights benefited fully from the history of the genre and yet departed so radically from that history. Exploring the content as well as the form of their dramatic works provides key insights into some of the most important societal and cultural issues of both past and present.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

Sophocles' *Antigone*

### Session 2

Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*

### Session 3

Corneille's *Horace*

### Session 4

Ibsen's *A Doll's House*

### Session 5

Brecht's *Baal*

### Session 6

Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

### Session 7

Churchill's *Cloud Nine*

## Course Dates

- ▶ 7 Wednesday evenings
- ▶ February 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019
- ▶ 7.00 – 10.00 pm
- (Last meeting: 7.00 – 9.00 pm)

## Course Fee

- ▶ HK\$3,800

## Venue

- ▶ Hong Kong side (To be announced)

# Representations of Ethnicity

Course code: ELIT9038

Application code: 1690-1105NW

The course aims at examining the politicized nature of ethnic representations and how they affect social relations and the ethno-symbolic network. Investigating the links between media, society and culture, it falls into the following main themes: Silencing the Asiatic, the White/Black division, the Caribbean subaltern, the Arab and Muslim others, and the symbolic American other. Exploring forms, practices, and politics of representation, we will discuss the importance, as well as the futility, of representational ethnic struggles.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

Silencing the Asiatic: Lotus Blossom, Dragon Lady, and, the Construction of the Asian Other

### Session 2

The White/Black Division: Advertisement, Cinema, and, Ideology

### Session 3

The Caribbean Subaltern

### Session 4

Arab & Muslim Others: A different Sexuality and Islamist Fundamentalism

### Session 5

The Symbolic American Other

## Course Dates

- ▶ 5 Wednesday evenings
- ▶ June 12, 19, 26; July 3, 10, 2019
- ▶ 7.00 – 10.00 pm

## Course Fee

- ▶ HK\$2,800
- (Third Age Learner's Rate: \$2,240)

## Venue

- ▶ Hong Kong side (To be announced)

# An Introduction to Shakespearean Tragedies

Course code: ELIT9044

Application code: 1635-1017NW

The course introduces some of Shakespeare's tragedies in an attempt to crystallize some unifying ideas out of the intricacies of Shakespeare's mind and his thoughts on the human condition as well as analyze and debate notions like sexuality, fear, woman, identity, tragic hero, the body, stage, guilt, language, and madness.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

*Hamlet*: ghost, hero, early soliloquies

### Session 2

*Hamlet*: madness, love, melancholy, late soliloquies

### Session 3

*Macbeth*: fear, sexuality, light, night, language, and equivocation

### Session 4

*Macbeth*: murder, lying, narration, guilt, and the tale told by an idiot

### Session 5

*King Lear*: the father, love, authority, and madness

## Course Dates

- ▶ 5 Tuesday evenings
- ▶ July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2018
- ▶ 7.00 – 10.00 pm

## Course Fee

- ▶ HK\$2,800

## Venue

- ▶ Hong Kong side (To be announced)

# Interdisciplinary

- 1 Representations of Ethnicity
- 2 On the Politics/Aesthetics of Art
- 3 Love and its Cultural Politics

# On How to Watch Films

Course code: ELIT9099

Application code: 1645-4065NW

It may be taken as a silly question. Everyone knows how to watch films. Films are created primarily for entertainment, and not for the intellectualizing interpretations of pompous academics. That much is certain. How to enjoy watching films, however, has become an increasingly important question. The usually half-empty cinema theatres in Hong Kong attest for it. It is as if contemporary viewers, whose time in daily life is now being mostly spent in front of various screens, do not know how to justify for themselves why it is still relevant to their lives in any way to go to the movies or watch films, since there are now much more interactive pass-time activities, such as story-based video games on the touch screens of advanced computers and smartphones. This course examines film viewing from this particular angle.

## Course Outline

### Session 1

Rethinking the Silent Film

### Session 2

Rethinking Alfred Hitchcock

### Session 3

Rethinking the classics of Lynch

### Session 4

The Viewer's Gaze

### Session 5

The Cinematic Gaze

## Course Dates

- ▶ 5 Wednesday evenings
- ▶ September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 2018
- ▶ 7.00 – 10.00 pm

## Course Fee

- ▶ HK\$2,800

## Venue

- ▶ Hong Kong side (To be announced)

# Cinema

## 1 On How to Watch Films