



Course No.: 4040252-01

Course name: Western Literature II: Novels Classical and Modern — Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* and Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*

ספרות המערב א': מנספילד פארק ולוליטה

Academic Year: 2021-2022

Instructor: Leona Toker

Program: The Program in Humanistic Studies

Academic Credits: 2

Format: Lecture & Seminar

Course Duration: Semester B, 2 weekly academic hours

Prerequisites: Western Literature I

This course expects a good level of English -- reading (between 40 and 80 pages a week), listening, and speaking. All reading in the course will be in English (Hebrew translations of the novels discussed exist; students can use them for additional help with the English text). Class discussions will be primarily in English, but papers may be written in Hebrew. Completion of the Natives or Non-Natives Post-Exemption English course is expected in order to register.

Office Hours: Mondays 12:00–13:00

Lecturer's Contact Information: toker@mail.huji.ac.il

Course Description: This is a read-along course. In advance of each class the students will be asked to read several chapters of the novels studied, *Mansfield Park* in the first half of the semester and *Lolita* in the second. The discussions of these chapters will deal with the classical and modernist art of narrative and with the ways in which narrative features are associated with the themes and the value systems of each author, with the literary conventions that the works process, and with the kinds of culture that the novels both represent and critique.

Course Objectives:

Study of novels belonging to different periods as multi-functional works.

Study of the artistic features of each work in relation to ideological and ethical issues.

Use of the appropriate tools of narrative analysis, which can eventually be applied to other texts as well.

Understanding of the ways in which the texts maneuver reader response.

Aesthetic experience on the basis of works whose subjects are remote from present-day realities.

Requirements:

Midterm Paper: 2 pages – 20%, on *Mansfield Park*. This can be a “position paper” that expresses the student’s attitude to the cultural issues raised. Or (preferably) it can be a paper that analyses a specific detail and connects it to its context within the novel.

Final Paper: 6–7 pages – 80%, on *Lolita*. This should be an analytic paper, with emphasis on detail and nuance rather than general issues.

Passing Grade: 60

Subjects and Required Reading per Lesson:

Session no. 1: Introduction

Session no. 2: Features of the English Rural Gentry at the Turn of the 19th Century

Required reading: *Mansfield Park*, chapters 1-5

Session no. 3: Topography and the Characters’ Spatial Self-Positioning

Required reading *Mansfield Park*, chapters 6-10 .

Session no. 4: Theatricals and Theatricality .

Required reading :*Mansfield Park*, chapters 11-19 .

Session no. 5: Marriage, Love, and Politics

Required reading *Mansfield Park*, chapters 20-31 .

Session no. 6: An Alternative System of Values

Required reading *Mansfield Park*, chapters 32-43 .

Session no. 7: Testing Idealizations

Required reading *Mansfield Park*, chapters 44-47 .

Session no. 8: How a First-Person Narrator Makes a Bid for Sympathy

Required reading *Lolita*, Foreword, Part 1, chapters 1-9 .

Session no. 9: Solipsism

Required reading *Lolita*, Part 1, chapters 10-22 .

Session no. 10: Why *Lolita* Is Not Pornographic

Required reading *Lolita*, Part 1, chapters 23-33 .

Session no. 11: Reading between the Lines

Required reading *Lolita*, Part 2, chapters 1-15 .

Session no. 12: Words to Play with

Required reading *Lolita*, Part 2, chapters 16-26 .

Session no. 13: Alternative Endings

Required reading *Lolita*, Part 2, chapters 27-36 .

Additional Information

Required Reading for the Course:

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (any edition)

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (preferably *The Annotated Lolita*. Ed. Alfred Appel)

Recommended Reading: secondary sources will be recommended in class in relation to specific interests of each student