

Literature Institute Study Guide

LIT 416 Twentieth Century Literature

Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Book 6. Boston. Bedford-St. Martins, 2004.

UNIT	WEEKS	TOPICS	READINGS
I		Overview	
	1	The Twentieth Century	Book 6, 1-29
II		Modernism	
	1	Colonialism Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) Heart of Darkness	Book 6, 30-34 Book 6, 35-96
		Author	Please write a brief author biography.
		Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Mr. Kurtz, critical scene.
		Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. post-colonialism, psychological novel.
		Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of evil in human beings in the case of Kurtz. How was Kurtz transformed from an idealistic person to an evil person? Does Conrad believe that all human beings have a primitive "dark" side of their personality to carry out evil acts if unconstrained by the civilization? E2. Discuss the theme of colonialism in relation to "Heart of Darkness." Support your position with the evidence from the novel. E3. Discuss the ideas and themes from authors and writings in the chapter on Colonialism.
	2	William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)	Book 6, 181-200
		Author	Please write a brief author biography.
		Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. metonymy, simile
		Essay Topics	E1. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter. Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.
	3	Pirandello	
		Author	Please write a brief author biography.
		Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, critical scene.
		Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. postmodernism
		Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the process of artistic creation and the dichotomy of art vs. reality. Can art imitate life exactly the way it exists and what are the reasons for it?

4	Thomas Mann	
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Mr. Aschenbach, critical scene.	
Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the dualism of intellect vs. emotions in the case of Aschenbach. Why did Aschenbach suppress his emotions all his life and practiced scholarly self-discipline? What happened after suppressed emotions started to take control of his world at his old age? Describe Aschenbach's acts of decadence after falling in love. E2. Discuss Aschenbach's Platonic love in his old age. How does Aschenbach rationalize his attraction by remembering Socrates' statements in Phaedro. What is the relationship of love and search for beauty and truth?	
4	James Joyce (1882-1941)	Book 6, 366-401
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Gabriel, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. metaphor, metonymy.	
Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of isolation and miscommunication in the case of Gabriel and Gretta. Why do Gabriel and Gretta think completely different things during their travel to the hotel after the party? E2. Discuss the theme of mortality in relation to Gabriel's statement "His soul had approached that region where dwell the vast hosts of the dead." E3. Discuss the theme of memory and past in relation to Gretta's past memory of a friend who died.	
5	Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)	Book 6, 402-422
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. essay, creative non-fiction	
Essay Topics	E1. Discuss Woolf's ideas in "A room of one's own."	
6	T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)	Book 6, 473-501
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. modernism, allusion	
Essay Topics	E1. Please answer the following questions for each of two poems in this chapter. Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument. E2. Discuss the paralysis, isolation, indecisiveness of Prufrock. E3. Discuss the modern world described in "Waste Land."	
7	Rainier Maria Rilke (1875-1926)	Book 6, 245-260

	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. elegy, sonnet	
	Essay Topics	E1. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter. Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.	
8		Surrealism Franz Kafka (1883-1924)	Book 6, 423-459
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Gregor Samsa, critical scene.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. surrealism, allegory, parable.	
	Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of isolation and alienation in the case of Gregor Samsa and compare it to the bureaucratic isolation in the modern world.	
9		War, Conflict, and Resistance	Book 6, 502-551
		E1. Please discuss the authors and their ideas in this chapter.	
10		Anna Akhmatova (1889-1966)	Book 6, 552-567
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. requiem, couplet	
	Essay Topics	E1. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter. Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.	
11		Federico Lorca (1898-1936)	Book 6, 568-585
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. ballad, ode	
	Essay Topics	E1. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter. Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.	
12		Existentialism Sartre (1905-1980)	Book 6, 746-751 Book 6, 692-745
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	

	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, conflict, character analysis of Orestes, critical scene.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. existentialism, revenge tragedy.	
	Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of freedom of action in existentialism. Describe Orestes' decision and action in relation to the idea of freedom. Compare and contrast Orestes' and Electra's motives for their action.	
13		Albert Camus (1913-1960)	Book 6, 812-825
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Daru, critical scene.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. existentialism, absurdism.	
	Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of freedom of decision and action in the case of Daru and the prisoner.	
III			
14		Samuel Beckett (1906-1989)	Book 6, 770-789
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Krapp.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. theatre of the absurd, absurdism.	
	Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of absurdness of life in the case of Krapp. Describe Krapp's reflections of his past, loneliness, and failures at his 69 th birthday.	
15		Milan Kundera	
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms. metaphor, metonymy.	
	Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the effect of role playing to the personality of a person. Describe the actions and reactions of two lovers in the story.	
IV			
16		Review, Essay, Exam	