

## LITERATURES OF MODERNITY

### CURRICULUM

#### Master of Arts

##### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

	Credits (Milestone)
Major Research Paper OR Practicum	
LM8901 Foundations	1
One Professional Skills Course	1
Four elective credits	4

##### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

	Credits
LM8910 Digital Archiving	1
LM8911 Literary Research Methods	1
LM8912 Modernity as a Public Event	1
LM8913 Teaching Writing	1
LM8914 Writing Scholarly Papers	1
LM8915 Writing Fiction	1
LM8916 Writing Literary Non-Fiction	1

##### ELECTIVES

	Credits
LM8931 Science, Literature, and Art	1
LM8932 Interfaces: Open Topic	1
LM8933 Literary Theories	1
LM8934 Studies in 18 <sup>th</sup> C Literature	1
LM8935 Rise of Children's Lit	1
LM8936 Genders, Sexualities, Humans	1
LM8937 Modernisms	1
LM8938 Modernism and Auto/Biography	1
LM8939 Studies in 19 <sup>th</sup> C Print Culture	1
LM8940 Modernity and Identity	1
LM8941 Modernity's Other	1
LM8942 19 <sup>th</sup> C Visual Culture	1
LM8943 New Directions	1
LM8944 Diasporic Modernities	1
LM8945 Politics of the American Novel	1
LM8946 Psychoanalysis and Literature	1
LM8947 Renaissance Humanism and Lit	1
LM8948 Rhetorics of Modernity	1
LM8949 Sociolinguistics and Modernity	1
LM8950 Unreal Cities	1

#### Major Research Paper

The student researches and writes a 35-40-page paper under the supervision of a faculty member. The MRP should be a sustained exploration of a theoretical question. An MRP should involve original approach and research, a critical review of literature in the field, as well as a synthesis of different points of view. The standard evaluation is that of an article in a refereed academic journal and commensurate with other English MA program requirements. The MRP will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second reader, normally also from the same program or another relevant graduate program. This is a Milestone. Pass/Fail

#### LM8902 Practicum

The Practicum allows students to apply their theoretical knowledge to a practical experience at institutions such as literary magazines, literary journals, literary agencies, libraries, museums, exhibitions, as well as literacy programs for youth and adults. Students also enroll in a Practicum seminar. Evaluation is based on three components: a) the external supervisor's evaluation, b) a

project representing the work undertaken in the practicum, and c) a brief meta-document on the project. All three components must be satisfactory for a student to pass. Evaluation may involve consultation with the on-site supervisor. Pass/fail

#### **LM8901 Foundations**

This team-taught course introduces students to key critical debates and theories concerning the literatures of modernity. Topics can include: modernity and the subject; modernity, science and technology; modernity and the metropolis; modernity and war; modernity, gender and sexuality; modernity, ethnicity and migration; modernity and political claim-making; the rhetoric of modernity; modernity and the everyday and avant-garde; modernity in the making: literary production and reception; modernity's modernisms; modernity's others. Pass/fail.

#### **LM8910 Digital Archiving**

This course addresses theoretical problems in visualization, criticism, and editing by providing hands-on experience in the process of presenting a cultural artifact as a virtual object within a digital, online environment. 1 Credit

#### **LM8911 Literary Research Methods**

This course introduces students to a wide range of literary research methods that may include, but are not limited to, historiography, bibliography, ethnography, humanities computing, and archival theory. The course familiarizes students with local archival resources and accustoms students to working with primary materials, including rare books and writers' collections, as well as with digital archives. 1 Credit

#### **LM8912 Modernity as a Public Event**

This course allows students to work collaboratively on the organization of a public project such as a symposium, a conference, a lecture series, the launch of a scholarly website, or an exhibition related to any aspect of literatures of modernity. While the content and theme may differ from year to year, this course entails training students in the planning, organizing, budgeting, advertising, and presenting of course content to the public. 1 Credit

#### **LM8913 Teaching Writing**

This course studies the historical, theoretical, and practical foundations in writing instruction. Topics include theorizing the Writing Centre, the practice of tutoring, linguistic and cultural issues, grammar and style, and technology in writing. Hands-on activities, such as the creation of pedagogical material, the observation of mentoring sessions, the development of in-class exercises, and tutoring are conducted in conjunction with the Writing Centre. 1 Credit

#### **LM8914 Writing Scholarly Papers**

This course equips students with the practical skills for writing a major research paper on a literary topic, including an annotated bibliography, a research proposal, and an outline. It also familiarizes students with computer-based reference systems and scholarly editing. The course prepares students to write professional abstracts and conference papers; students are encouraged to submit their work to scholarly venues. 1 Credit

#### **LM8915 Writing Fiction**

This course provides theoretical and practical training in fiction writing, including genres such as the short story, poetry, and the novel, while offering training and experience in effective critical editing and feedback. Taking advantage of Toronto's vibrant cultural scene, the course helps students to enter the literary community by teaching them how to submit work for publication, encouraging them to participate in literary events such as reading series and book festivals, and introducing them to the publishing industry. 1 Credit

#### **LM8916 Writing Literary Non-Fiction**

This course provides theoretical and practical instruction in the craft of non-fiction writing, including genres such as the personal essay, the literary essay, book reviews, and biography, as well as training in the use of editing software. The course also includes pedagogical training in the teaching of writing. Students are introduced to different aspects of the literary publishing industry and learn how to pitch and submit their work to professional outlets. 1 Credit

#### **LM8931 Science, Literature, and Art**

This course examines the connection between science, art, and literature from the Renaissance to the present. Students investigate how scientific narratives have influenced art and literature, and how scientific narratives portray the world. Topics include: the unification of science and art in the work of Leonardo Da Vinci, alchemical writings and transcriptions of witch trials, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century struggle for ascendancy between humanism and science, narrative structure and the unconscious in works by Freud, the influence of Einstein's theory of relativity on modernist writers, quantum and chaos theory in postmodern literature and theory. 1 Credit

#### **LM8932 Interfaces: Open Topic**

This course examines the interrelationship between literatures of modernity and other art forms such as painting, photography, film, and music. Probing the formal, aesthetic, and sensory innovations of modern systems of representation, the course investigates how the written word takes up and responds to the ideas, techniques, and representational strategies already present in other arts. 1 Credit

#### **LM8933 Literary Theories**

This course examines theories and approaches relevant to the study of literatures of modernity. The course may focus on a survey of theories or on a particular movement. The course surveys literary theories such as: Russian Formalism and New Criticism; semiotics, reader-response theory, and deconstruction; New Historicism; and feminist literary theories. 1 Credit

**LM8934 Studies in 18<sup>th</sup>C Literature**

The eighteenth century was an era that entailed revolution and romanticism; scientific innovation and philosophical skepticism; sexual fixations and the cult of death; as well as environmental concerns and political radicalism. The course examines the emergence of modern identities—sexual, political, psychological, philosophical—in the long 18<sup>th</sup> century. Students are introduced to a range of forms, including poetry, drama, and the new genre of the novel, by canonical and non-canonical writers. 1 Credit

**LM8935 Rise of Children's Literature**

This course traces the emergence of the modern category of childhood in the second half of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries, taking into account not only literature written for child readers, but pedagogical theories, medical and scientific writings on childhood, and legal and political discourses from the period. Students are introduced to writers such as: Locke, Rousseau, Newbery, Day, Wollstonecraft, Edgeworth, Sherwood, Lear, and Carroll. 1 Credit

**LM8936 Genders, Sexualities, Humans**

This course explores the changing relationship between being human and being sexual during the modern era. Topics include: diverse perspectives on the modern body; the genders of literary genres; virtual sexualities, non-human sex, gender politics and animal rights; the role of technology in altering conceptions of genders, sexualities, and human natures and the place of the natural in queer aesthetics. The course familiarizes students with theories and methodologies such as genre studies, performativity studies, feminism, eco-theory, queer theory, masculinity studies. 1 Credit

**LM8937 Modernisms**

Recent theorizing has moved away from a monolithic understanding of Anglo-American high modernism to consider modernisms as expressing multiple forms of experimentation and genres across genders, races, and nations. This course focuses on some of the variants of literary modernism: the avant-garde, female modernism, Harlem Renaissance, Canadian modernism, and others. Topics include urbanization, new technologies, war, expatriate experiences, as well as exploring the institutions of modernism. 1 Credit

**LM8938 Modernism and Auto/Biography**

This course examines auto/biography within the context of Modernist aesthetics and culture. Specifically, it explores how life writers drew on advancements in psychology, registered shifts in assumptions about gender and sexuality, and experimented with literary form to offer new ways for conceiving of and depicting the human subject. In so doing they heralded a uniquely modernist tradition of life writing. Readings may include Gosse's *Father and Son*, Brittain's *Testament of Youth*, Freud's "Leonardo da Vinci and a Memory of His Childhood," Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*, Woolf's *Moments of Being*, Stein's *Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, and Symons' *The Quest for Corvo: An Experiment in Biography*. 1 Credit

**LM8939 Studies in 19<sup>th</sup>C Print Culture**

This course explores a broad range of 19<sup>th</sup>C print culture forms central to modern political claim-making and collective action, with a particular focus on tracing the relations between publicity and identity formation. Possible topics include: the politics of the novel; feminism and print culture; media and political community; print culture and representations of class; the rise of the new journalism; the periodical press and the business of literature. 1 Credit

**LM8940 Modernity and Identity**

The course explores modern identities and the practice of writing with a particular focus on the intersections of race and gender. Topics include: Jewish women's writing; identity, assimilation and displacement; transitions and traditions; class and ethnicity; memory and identity; and creativity and resistance. 1 Credit

**LM8941 Modernity's Others**

This graduate-level course introduces students to some of the key questions in the field of postcolonial studies. Readings will include a selection of critical and theoretical works read alongside literary texts and feature or documentary films. Central to the course will be the question of the representation of the Other in discourses of modernity. Topics will change from year to year and will usually include often understudied topics such as the figure of the Muslim, veiling as a cultural and religious practice, the (postcolonial) queer subject, among others. 1 Credit

**LM8942 19<sup>th</sup>C Visual Culture**

The nineteenth century was the first age of mass mechanical reproduction, the age in which the pictorial image became a regular feature of everyday life in the streets, the shop, the home, and the school. Focusing on visual and verbal collaborations, students examine a variety of publication case histories in the material context of their production and reception. 1 Credit

**LM8943 New Directions: Open Topic**

This course allows students to conduct in-depth studies into new scholarly directions in literatures of modernity. This course allows for in-depth studies of a single author, topic, or literary movement. 1 Credit

**LM8944 Diasporic Modernities**

This course initiates a dialogue between modernity, as discourse and theoretical category, and the central concerns of diasporic theories and "New World" literatures including language, history, subjectivity, and identity. The course traces New World "irruptions" into Western conceptions of modernity to determine to what extent new world societies and diasporic experiences reshape modernist assumptions and fictional practices. Writers include: Rhys, Carpentier, Walcott, Kincaid, Naipaul, Suleri, and Bahrampour as well as theoretical writings by Anzaldúa, Benítez-Rojo, Bhabha, Chatterjee, hook, Grewal, Mohanty, Said, Renan, and Spivak. 1 Credit

**LM8945 Politics of the American Novel**

Emerson challenged American artists to create works that would articulate and sustain a native culture worthy of the United States' rising presence in the modern world. Fragmentation, migration, and unprecedented intercultural contact — signal features of modernity itself — exert considerable pressure on the ongoing politics of the American novel. Topics covered in this seminar include cultural nationalism, race and American identity, migration and immigration, and the interplay of literature and history. 1 Credit

#### **LM8946 Psychoanalysis and Literature**

The theorization of the unconscious and the techniques of psychoanalysis first developed by Freud exert a profound influence on modern literature, as do interpretations of Freud's work. Although modern authors have often explicitly been mindful of psychoanalytic insights, literary criticism has deployed psychoanalysis as a tool in order to understand literary characters, narrative styles, reader-reception, and authorship itself. This course investigates key texts by Freud, Klein, Lacan, Laplanche, Kristeva, Felman, and others. 1 Credit

#### **LM8947 Renaissance Humanism and Lit**

The course explores what many scholars see as the beginnings of modernity—Renaissance humanism. Topics include: Renaissance individualism; changing conceptions of the monarch and the state; beginnings of imperialism; subversion of reason; and friction between religion and science. Students study the works of humanists like Petrarch, Mirandola, Erasmus, Machiavelli, Montaigne, in relation to the literature of the period by authors such as Marlowe, Shakespeare, Jonson, Webster, and Milton, who engage the diversity of humanist thinking. 1 Credit

#### **LM8948 Rhetorics of Modernity**

"Modernity" and "literature" are contested, yet dialogically intertwined, fields. Each rhetorically influences and transforms the other. But is modernity a temporal category, a geopolitical one, or is it philosophical, social, scientific, or subjective? What is the purpose of literature? Is it political, pedagogical, archival, or recreational? Focusing on different themes from year to year (war, the environment, myth, identity), this course charts the rhetorical relation between the modern and the literary, demonstrating not only how each lends meaning to the other, but what is at stake in this contest. 1 Credit

#### **LM8949 Sociolinguistics and Modernity**

The course examines the role of language in the construction of literatures of modernity. Topics may include social class, identity, ethnicity, gender, language attitudes, culture, language displacement, diglossia and bilingualism, internal and external language, as well as the unique Canadian context of immigration and linguistic diversity. Readings may include Bauman and Briggs' *Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality*. 1 Credit

#### **LM8950 Unreal Cities**

The metropolis has been central to the experience of modernity for millennia. Topics include the personalities of cities, the literary representation of architecture and space, cosmopolitan imagination, the gender of city, nostalgia, the divided city, the racialized and gendered city. The course may be organized historically or it may focus on the literature of a particular city or on the city within a specific literary movement such as Romanticism, Realism, or Modernism. 1 Credit