

ENGL 444 Special Topic : Texts in Context

Trimester 1 2013

4 March to 3 July 2013

30 Points



From: *Alice's Adventures under Ground* (the first version of *Alice in Wonderland*), illustrated by Carroll himself

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break:	22 to 28 April 2013
Study week:	10 to 14 June 2013
Examination/Assessment period:	14 June to 3 July 2013

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Professor Kathryn Walls kathryn.walls@vuw.ac.nz 463 6898 VZ 916 Course coordinator

Office hours to be confirmed.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tues 10.00-13.00 vZ802

TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

Classes will take the form of discussions centred on the set texts. Students will be expected to have read, before each class, the texts scheduled for discussion, and to have undertaken other prescribed preparation as announced in the previous class and posted on Blackboard.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be emailed to everyone in the class and posted on Blackboard. You must either use the Victoria email address set up for you, or set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

An investigation of six literary classics as responses to contemporary developments in science (and related pursuits). Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, for example, will be paired with Darwin's *Origin of the Species*; Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* with Dampier's *Voyages*; Pope's *Rape of the Lock* with Newton's *Opticks*.

COURSE CONTENT

This course offers practice in and a template (just one of many possible templates) for research. Texts have been chosen as the basis for a broad exploration of the way in which decidedly non-literary works may have influenced, and may illuminate, imaginative writing. (Lowes's study of Coleridge, *The Road to Xanadu*, is incorporated as a pioneering example of this critical genre.)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate their familiarity with the set texts.
2. Discuss the set texts.
3. Interpret and analyse the literary set texts in the light of their parallel non-literary set texts.
4. Produce, in-term, independently conceived essays comparable with journal articles.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours—inclusive of hours spent in class—per teaching week. You will be spending these hours reading, preparing for seminars, writing essays, and reviewing for the examination.

READINGS

Essential texts:

- *S. T. Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1797), in *Major Works*, ed. Jackson;
- John Livingston Lowes, *The Road to Xanadu: A Study in the Ways of the Imagination* (1927);
- Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* (1861), excerpts (to be provided);
- *Charles Darwin, *The Origin of the Species* (1859);
- *Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland* (1865), in *The Annotated Alice*;
- *The works of William Dampier, as excerpted in *Buccaneer Explorer*, ed. Norris (or in any other form);
- *Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726);
- early eighteenth-century "proposals" (texts provided);
- Swift, *A Modest Proposal* (1729);
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, selections (to be provided)
- Robert Boyle, selections, to be confirmed;
- *Robert Hooke, *Micrographia*;
- Isaac Newton, *Opticks* (1704);
- Alexander Pope, *Rape of the Lock* (1714), and excerpts (to be provided)

These texts are listed in the approximate order in which they are to be discussed in class. Most may be downloaded from the Library's databases *Literature Online* and *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*. Some are also available in standard cheap editions. *The Road to Xanadu* may be downloaded to a Kindle via Amazon.com, which also has new (but expensive) and second-hand copies on offer. Asterisked titles should be on sale in Vic Books—but you are free to use any editions or downloaded versions. *The Rape of the Lock* as edited for ENGL 111 students may be purchased from Student Notes.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

In-term:

Essay 1

3000 words

Due April 16

Value: 25% (50% of the in-term component)

This essay is designed to assess your knowledge and skills as outlined under “Learning Objectives 1-4” in relation to one pair of texts.

Subject: *Alice in Wonderland*; *Origin of Species*

Topic: You should choose your own line of enquiry and develop a formal topic in consultation with Kathryn.

Essay 2

3000 words

Due June 4

Value: 25% (50% of the in-term component)

This essay is designed to assess your knowledge and skills as outlined under “Learning Objectives” 1-4 in relation to one pair of texts—or at least to one literary work and a package of related non-literary texts.

Subject: Any text in its suggested context (excluding *Alice in Wonderland* and *Origin of Species*). It is expected that you will make your choice from the set texts. If, however, you are keen to apply the model used in this course to texts other than those set, this may be possible. You will need to mention your idea to Kathryn at least six weeks in advance of the due date, on the understanding that her permission is by no means guaranteed (!).

Topic: You should choose your own line of enquiry and develop a formal topic in consultation with Kathryn.

Examination

Value: 50%

Time: Three hours.

Permission: You will be permitted to take copies of the set texts into the examination. These may be annotated.

More detailed information will be provided in week 10.

The examination will be designed to assess your knowledge and skills as outlined under “Learning Objectives” 1-3.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office: von Zedlitz level 8.

COLLECTING MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

Kathryn will return marked assignments at the end of seminars. After the last day of teaching, any uncollected assignments will be left with the Programme Administrator. She will keep them for collection, until the end of the second trimester. (You will need your student ID if you want to collect an assignment from the Administration office.)

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

If you want to seek an extension, you must complete a request form (available on the course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date.

This is important, because (according to a policy embraced by the English Programme as a whole), work submitted after the deadline but without an extension will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. It will also receive only minimal comment.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Prepare for and attend at least 70% of scheduled seminars
- Submit both essays
- Sit the course examination

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Please note that this schedule is provisional and liable to minor adjustments as the course progresses.

Week 1	Mar 5	Introduction; Coleridge, <i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>
Week 2	Mar12	<i>Rime</i> , John Livingstone Lowes, explorers' narratives
Week 3	Mar19	Carroll, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> ; Victorian cookery
Week 4	Mar26	Darwin, <i>The Origin of Species</i> and <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
Easter Break: Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2013		
Week 5	Apr9	Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (but we may decide to begin with Dampier)
Week 6	Apr 16	Dampier's <i>Voyages</i> , <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 to Sunday 28 April 2013		
Week 7	April30	<i>A Modest Proposal</i> and serious "proposal" pamphlets
Week 8	May 7	<i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</i> and Pope; Hooke's <i>Micrographia</i> and Pope
Week 9	May14	Boyle and Pope
Week 10	May21	Newton and Pope
Week 11	May28	Science and <i>The Rape of the Lock</i>
Week 12	Jun 4	t.b.a.
second essay due		
Study Week: Monday 10 June to Friday 14 June 2013		
Examination Period: Friday 14 June to Wednesday 3 July 2013		