

Humanities University Study Guide

LIT 514 Nineteenth Century Literature

Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Books 1-6. Boston: Bedford-St. Martins, 2004.

UNIT	WEEKS	TOPICS	READINGS
I		Overview	
	1	The Nineteenth Century World Europe The Americas India Japan	Book 5, 1-12 Book 5, 13-22 Book 5, 749-753 Book 5, 955-959 Book 5, 1071-1075
II		Romanticism	
	2	German Romanticism Goethe (1749-1832) <i>Faust</i>	Book 5, 23-29 Book 5, 29-178
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Faustus, critical scene.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: Sturm und Drang, romanticism.	
	Essay Topics	E1: Please describe the two phases of Goethe's development. How did Sturm und Drang contrast with Romanticism? E2: How and why is Mephistopheles so persuasive? What is his ultimate goal? E3: Describe the supernatural elements in Faust, including flying horses, devils, witches, spells and potions. E4: Discuss the role of desire in Faust.	
	3	E.T.A. Hoffmann (1776-1822)	Book 5, 294-315
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Elis Froebom, critical scene.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: gothic, romance.	
	Essay Topics	E1: Please list two or three key characteristics of E.T.A. Hoffmann's short stories. E2: Discuss the role of obsession in "The Mines of Falun." E3: What is the role of love in Elis Froebom's life? E4: What deep human emotions do the mines trigger in "The Mines of Falun"?	
	Author	Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) Please write a brief author biography.	Book 5, 316-333
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: metaphor, metonymy	
	Essay	E1. How does Heine's work deal with social reform?	

Topics

E2.

E1. In "A Spruce Is Standing Lonely," what is the condition of the spruce tree? How does it reflect a

E3. In "The Grenadiers," what is the reaction of the two grenadiers upon receiving the news that their Emperor has been captured? How does the poem comment on the strength of loyalty of soldiers to a leader they admire and follow? How does the poem evoke ideas about the meaning of service to one's country or ideals, and of sacrifice?

E4. In "The Minnesingers," how does the poem compare the work of the poet with that of minnesingers, who fight to the death for the love of a lady? The victorious poet is the one who "wings the inmost / Song-blood from his burning breast." How does that image or metaphor describe the impact of an effective song or poem?

E5. In "The Lorelei," who or what is the Lorelei? How does Heine make a connection between a dangerous rock in a navigation channel of a river and love? How does the poem make a commentary on seduction and the pursuit of love?

E6. In "The Silesian Weavers," what are the Silesian weavers weaving? How does their work express their anger and rebellion against a regime that has left them impoverished, cold, and unable to thrive? How does the repetition of verses and the rhythm of the poem evoke the sound and feeling of a loom?

E7. In "The Asra," how does the poem explore the theme of doomed love? What is the fate of the Asra when they fall in love? How has the Sultan's daughter unintentionally caused the death of the slave (the bondsman)?

E8. In "The Slave Ship," how does Mynher van Koek's description of the cargo make human beings equivalent to objects for sale? Please cite specific words and lines. What percentage of the Senegalese blacks does Mynher van Koek expect to survive the passage across the Atlantic? Does the poem express approval or disapproval of the practice of selling slaves?

E9. In "The Slave Ship," describe a few of the things that happen to the blacks as they are on board and crossing the Atlantic. What happens to the individuals who die? What do the sharks do that follow the ship? How might the sharks be parallel to the other creatures (human) who feed on "Negro meat"?

E10. In "The Slave Ship," describe the grotesque dance that the captain and ship's doctor force the blacks to perform. How does the poet use the dance to show the humanity of the blacks, and emphasize the cruelty and horror of the spectacle?

E11. In "The Migratory Rats," where do the rats go and what do they do? What makes them so destructive? In their quest to "redivide the world," how do they fail to obtain goods and money? How does the poem depict that these are people who have lost their humanity, their higher selves, and their ability to maintain equanimity?

E12. In "Morphine," how does the poem compare the two brothers? How is Sleep personified? What kind of brother is Death?

Note Heine's poetry is very satisfying to analyze, since his extended metaphors are clear and one can start to make many connections. The concept of the Lorelei is reminiscent of the Sirens in The Odyssey, which bring adventurers (and those who succumb to lust and longing) to their doom. Interesting coincidence – Lorelei is the name of the gold-digger starlet in "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" – How to Marry a Millionaire (film with Marilyn Monroe) and the Broadway production (with Carol Channing). Equating the pursuit of love with danger is standard Romantic fare; to turn the mythical Sirens or the

Lorelei into a flesh and blood character in a 1950s musical is to add irony and a post-modern subversion into the mix. Knowing the origin of the names (Heine's "The Lorelei") adds to one's enjoyment of literature and culture.

4	English Romanticism	Book 5, 208-235
Author	William Blake (1757-1827) Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: allusion	
Essay Topics	<p>E1. Please describe how elements of myth in Blake's engraving relates to his poetry.</p> <p>E2. What are Blake's ideas about empiricism and rationalism?</p> <p>E3. How does Blake's Marriage of Heaven and Hell function as a compendium of his ideas? What were some of the ideas presented there?</p> <p>E4. Please read "The Chimney Sweeper" from <i>Songs of Innocence</i>. How does the poem describe conditions in the world for the young sweepers, and for all the young innocents?</p>	
5	William Wordsworth (1770-1850)	Book 5, 236-254
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: metonymy, simile	
Essay Topics	<p>E1. In "Expostulation and Reply," how does the poet react to a person who does not study books, but instead, chooses to "dream"? What does he feel about what the eye sees, the ear hears, and the activity of thinking? How does the poet place a high value on individual perception?</p> <p>E2. In "The Tables Turned," how does the poet express his view that it is better to learn from Nature than from books? In the opinion of the poet, what are some of the things that Nature can teach that books cannot?</p> <p>E3. In "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," how does the poet describe how the action of reflecting upon nature brings pleasure? Why does he focus on elements of Nature as he sits back and reflects on his experiences?</p> <p>E4. In "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey," describe the author's experience with nature. Please point out the characteristics of the three ways the poet experiences Nature: Past, present, in reflection and recollection.</p> <p>Observation: Wordsworth suggests that reflecting on nature is better than the actual experience of it. The forms and mental structures that the poet has created based on his engagement with Nature provide emotional and intellectual nourishment to the poet when he is far from the countryside. The poem is expressing about way that one can learn about the self, the soul, and life in general by contemplating Nature.</p> <p>Observation: "Tintern Abbey" demonstrates Wordsworth's intense interest in exploring the relationships between perception and consciousness, mind and nature, the past and the present.</p>	

E5. Please describe the poet's sorrow over the loss of the innocence and the natural state of children in "Ode: Intimations of Immortality." What does he say about their spontaneous relation with Nature? How does he console himself over the loss?

Observation: In "Ode: Intimations of Immortality," the poet suggests that the acculturation process strips human beings of their purity, freshness, and ability to connect to a higher sensibility and consciousness. For Wordsworth, the most enlightened state is one of maturity rediscovering the unspoiled condition of nature. One can't help but think of Rousseau: "We are born free, but everywhere man is in chains" – the idea that we become chained and enslaved by old, corrupt human institutions and habits of mind. In certain ways, it privileges the primitive and the "natural" – and it ties with the idea of the "noble savage" of Bartolome de las Casas and some of the ideas in Montaigne's "On Cannibalism." It is easy to see how a Romantic philosophy could encourage the overthrow of old institutions, monarchies, and religious authority, since those old authority structures are the antithesis of newborn innocence, the natural state, and the child's rebellious questioning that Wordsworth admires. At the same time, it is doubtful that he would really agree with the full implementation of his notions. After all, who would really want to have a society governed by children? Children have insatiable appetites for food, toys, and attention. They want them all now, and if they don't get them, they will scream, cry, and kick you (or their sibling). In reality, Wordsworth's poems point to a desire for a higher consciousness – one that melds mature knowledge of the world with joyous freshness that is boundless in its ability to envision, dream, and create. Perhaps the act of melding the two is what gives Wordsworth's work and tone such sweetness and such poignancy. As in Tintern Abbey, one can only really appreciate the beauty and freshness of innocence after one has accumulated some experience. Part nostalgia, part idealism, and "love" (love being the engine of the soul that lifts one up from the dungeon of the body to the higher realm), Wordsworth's narrator realizes that immortality is best drunk cold – with the dark syrup of mortality stirred in.

Observation: In "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" the poem express the poet's desire to create a new understanding of the soul that works outside the lines of Christian dogma, and is more related to Nature. The poet feels that in relating to nature, he learns about the eternal verities – spiritual truths – in ways he does not get by going to church or reading things written by the philosophers. In this work, the poet expresses a belief that his pantheistic view of life is perfect for supporting the value of the individual and individual creativity.

E6. Explain how Wordsworth's poetry sets up a tension between the past and the present. What emotions does the poetry inspire? Please use specific examples to support your position.

6	Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)	Book 5, 255-280
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: fancy, imagination, imagery	
Essay	E1. Please describe the narrator's experience in the poem,	

Topics "Kubla Khan." How does the poem represent the awakening of the creative process in the individual? How does Kubla Khan's pleasure dome, Xanadu, awaken and inspire in the narrator a belief in himself, and the desire to create his own?

Observation: The poem depicts the creative force of Kubla Khan. When the narrator comes in contact with churning energy and turmoil, blended with pleasure, the poem expresses the inner awakening that the narrator experiences.

E2. Please describe the Ancient Mariner's experience in the poem, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner." When the Ancient Mariner harms a living creature, what is the effect on him socially and psychologically? When the Ancient Mariner feels heart-felt love for the watersnakes and then blesses them, how is the curse lifted and his penance complete? How does the poem evoke thoughts about sinning, penance, and redemption, crime and punishment, psychological burdens? Can a reader relate to these ideas in his or her own life?

7 John Keats (1798-1821)

Book 5, 281-293

Author Please write a brief author biography.

Literary Analysis Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.

Literary Terms Please briefly define the following literary terms: negative capability

Essay Topics E1. Discuss why Keats' notion of negative capability is important in his poetry.
E2. Briefly discuss Keats' relationship with his family and his work. How did social class affect the reception to his work?
E3. In the poem, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" describe the poet's experience of discovery of a new world of reading. How does Keats make a connection between intellectual discovery and the work of the early explorers of the Americas in his poem?
Observation: Faust also desired knowledge and was willing to enter into a pact with Mephistopheles to get it. In doing so, his quest for knowledge enslaved him. In contrast, Keats desires knowledge, but he focuses on the book rather than the magic. Keats emphasizes the action and power of his own intellectual endeavors. In the poem, "On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer," delving into the depths is akin to setting sail for the "new world" – filled with adventure and self-determination. Learning from books is liberating and exhilarating.
E4. Describe the relationship between the seasons, time, and change in "Ode to Autumn." Please use specific words and phrases as evidence.
E5. In the poem, "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," describe the knight's misery – his loss and disappointment – after his chance encounter with a beautiful woman. Is it possible that the woman is a metaphor for other experiences and dreams?
E6. In "Ode to a Nightingale," what is the poet experiencing before and then after he sees the nightingale? How does the poet describe his fear of death? How does the nightingale represent beauty and life?

Observation: One way to interpret the poem has to do with awareness. Once the poet has heard the nightingale's song, he is now aware of the sweetness of life, and also its eventual passing. This is the song that all people have heard. Once the poet hears the song, what he has in his mind is the same song that was heard by emperors, clowns, Biblical characters – essentially the whole of the human race. It is the song of life

and death, the awareness of mortality and immortality. The poet learns he can taste the sweetness of life, but that the ability to taste came with a price. The poet became self-aware. E7. In Ode on a Grecian Urn, what is the poet experiencing when he looks at the urn? How does he respond to the art on the Grecian urn? How and when does observing the urn cause thoughts to arise – imagination and fancy? What is the spectator's role and the function of active participation with the art?

Observation:

In "Ode on a Grecian Urn," the best way to look at what is happening is to consider it illustrative of mental processes. In this case, the poem shows how art creates ideas, even truth. If we look closely at the poem, we can look at specific passages and ask questions. The poem illustrates the idea that the importance of art and art appreciation lies in the interaction of the spectator and the work of art. The poem depicts the actions that go into the meaning-making process – the way the mind engages with the work of art, how it metaphorically comes alive in the spectator's mind, and sets off a chain of generative thoughts. In engaging the reader in the possibility that all works of art are unfinished, always in process ("for ever young") the poem also suggests that art consists of places in which the individual may seek truth – at least truth as it exists in our own awareness.

Keep in mind that registering specific details of the urn triggers even more responses to art? Keats' meditation points to the creation of art, and the underlying artistic impulse.

E8: In "Ode to Autumn," what is the poet experiencing? Who is he addressing? What are his observations and feelings? Which specific scenes and images point to nature's lushness and harvest, perched directly on top of Death? How does it make the reader feel to be aware that nature's bounty occurs just before winter – just before things die? What might that suggest about the universal condition – how we tend to think good times will never end – but yet, the awareness that they will makes us all the more appreciative of their sweetness?

8 Russian Romanticism
Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837)

Book 5, 334-348

Author	Please write a brief author biography.
Literary Analysis	Please discuss the plot, characteristics
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: dramatic narrative poem, the unities
Essay Topics	E1. What were Pushkin's ideas about the relationship between literature and political ideas? E2. In "The Bronze Horseman," what does the Neva River do? Please describe the river's various states and what they might represent or symbolize. Please use specific lines and words to support your answer. E3. What happens to Yevgeni in The Bronze Horseman? When and how? In the end, when Yevgeni wanders around, ragged and mad, after losing everything in a flood, what does he encounter in the mud? E4. Discuss how Pushkin explores how the hubris, pride, or unrealistic vision of a leader leads to suffering of the populace.

Note The Neva River flows through St. Petersburg and it affects all those who live along its banks. Many poets have discussed change and political reform in terms of the wind (winds of change) and used the weather to symbolize mental and emotional states. Pushkin is a bit different. In using the river, he works with something that is closer to the earth (effective – think of Russians, the serfs, and the fact that they literally belonged to the land), and also the sea. Water tends to be stronger than air – it pulls bodies, drowns people, and also sweeps clear. Other works of literature have also dealt with water / rivers – one notable example is George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*.

III Realism-Naturalism

9	Flaubert (1821-1880)	Book 5, 435-461
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Felicite, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: realism, imitation.	
Essay Topics	<p>E1: Describe Flaubert's view of objectivity and discuss how it connects to his view of how realistic fiction should be written.</p> <p>E2: In Flaubert's "A Simple Heart," what is the relationship between Mme. Aubain and Felicite?</p> <p>E3: How does Felicite's name (which means "happiness") reflect, ironize, or contradict the actual occurrences in her life? Please list a few.</p> <p>E4: In "A Simple Heart," what is the role of LouLou, the parrot? What does LouLou bring to Felicite?</p>	
Note	<p>It is hard to read "A Simple Heart" without reflecting on the role of single women in literature, and the fact that the nineteenth-century mind tended to view them as "spinsters" and regard them with a combination of pity, horror, and tremendous sadness. Felicite's situation mirrors that of the protagonist in Hoffmann's "The Mines of Falun" and even Miss Havisham in Dickens' <i>Great Expectations</i>, whose life stopped when she was jilted at the altar (and thus lost the man or companion who would infuse her with wholeness and life). While one might focus on the sociological implications, what is interesting about the "spinsters" is that they are used by Hoffmann and Flaubert to depict a psychological condition or state of being. It is also a way to add tragic dimensions to the mix.</p>	
10	Henrick Ibsen (1828-1906)	Book 5, 556-616
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Hedda Gabler, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: realistic drama.	
Essay Topics	<p>E1: Describe Ibsen's view of social institutions (marriage, etc.), and the human psychological dimension of the relationship between men and women.</p> <p>E2: What kind of person is Hedda Gabler?</p> <p>E3: How does Heart of Darkness relate to post-colonialism? Please discuss the way that two civilizations are portrayed.</p> <p>E4: Explore the violence embedded within descriptions and portrayals in Heart of Darkness.</p>	

11	Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)	Book 5, 462-540
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of the protagonist (the underground man), critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: post-colonialism, psychological novel.	
Essay Topics	<p>E1: Discuss the flawed nature of the protagonist in <i>Notes from the Underground</i>.</p> <p>E2: Please briefly describe Dostoevsky's early life and works. How did the early events in his life affect his view of how the poor are treated by society? How did his mother's death and his father's murder affect him?</p> <p>E3: Describe Dostoevsky's later work, and the impact that his life experiences (prison, epilepsy, financial turmoil) had on his beliefs about human nature.</p> <p>E4: In <i>Notes from Underground</i>, discuss the tension between the outside world and the inner life of the mind.</p>	
Note	<p>The protagonist of <i>Notes from Underground</i> continues to be the perfect anti-hero for our times. His thoughts perfectly reflect the thoughts that torment many individuals in times of paradox, change, and a social order that seems to offer nothing but contradiction and mixed messages. The condition that the protagonist describes seems, at first blush, to replicate that of alienation. It's true that viewing <i>Notes from Underground</i> from the perspective of existentialist philosophy can be very fruitful because it explores the human condition stripped of the false consciousness imposed by social conventions or ideologies. However, the protagonist in <i>Notes from Underground</i> is not actually without religion or belief. It is just that he realizes that they contradict the fundamental condition of his existence, as he has come to know it, and his relationships with others – in the above-ground world – are complicated. In the rejection of certain "modern" values, is a mythical, almost mystical energy or understanding about the nature of humanity reintroduced?</p>	
12	Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)	Book 5, 617-662
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Ivan Ilych, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary term: novella.	
Essay Topics	<p>E1: Please describe Tolstoy's early life and political beliefs</p> <p>E2: Why and how did Tolstoy feel suspicion toward Western science and a growing secularization?</p> <p>E3: In "The Death of Ivan Ilych," what are some of the reflections that the protagonist has about life, the nature of human accomplishment, and spirituality?</p> <p>E4: In "The Death of Ivan Ilych," how does the condition of slow dying come to represent human consciousness?</p>	
13	Naturalism Emile Zola (1840-1902)	Book 5, 398-399
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	

Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters in Zola's work.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: naturalism, the novel.	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss naturalism in literature. E2: Describe characterization in a naturalistic novel or short story. E3. What was Zola's purpose in creating his characters? How did he consider it to be a scientific investigation? E4. Discuss Zola's view of human nature and human psychology, especially in relation to writing.	
	Emilia Pardo Bazan (1852-1921)	Book 5, 691-702
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each of the stories of the themes, main characters, character analysis of the protagonists, critical scenes.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: naturalism, feminism.	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss how Bazan explores the relations between the powerful and the powerless. E2: What were Pardo Bazan's views of the rights of women? How did they put her at odds with the conservative Spanish society she lived in? E3: In "The Revolver," what affect does the husband's threat have on his wife? E4: In "The Oldest Story," what does the man claim Eve was created from? What is, according to the man relating the tale, the true role and identity of woman?	
Note	I wonder if Kate Chopin and Emilia Pardo Bazan knew each other... the protagonist in "The Revolver" suffers from heart disease, and has been oppressed in marriage. Kate Chopin's protagonist in her short story, "The Story of an Hour," involving "the joy that kills" does as well. "The Revolver" is a brilliant portrayal of psychological oppression and terror. It explains why kidnap victims do not try to leave; it also sheds light into the psychology of the process leading to self-censoring, and the internalization of oppression. It would be a very convenient story to discuss in class because it is so provocative (and its motif fairly obvious).	
14	Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)	Book 5, 703-748
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Lyubov, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: realism, naturalism	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss the realistic elements in Chekhov's plays and short stories. E2: Describe how Chekhov explores the way that human beings find themselves unable to take corrective action at the most dire times. E3: How does "The Cherry Orchard" explore class differences?	

E4: How do the different characters in "The Cherry Orchard" deal with loss, and thus death?

IV Symbolism	
15	Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867)
	Book 5, 412-434
Author	Please write a brief author biography.
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary term: symbolism
Essay Topics	<p>E1. Discuss how symbolism incorporates elements of myth.</p> <p>E2. Explore the presence of death and decay in Baudelaire's poems. What sort of response do they elicit in the reader?</p> <p>E3. In the poem, "Hymn to Beauty," how does Baudelaire set up a series of paradoxes and oppositions to present a new way of looking at the concept of beauty?</p> <p>E4. Describe the terms that Baudelaire uses to describe the corpse in the poem, "Carrion." What does he say about it to his travelling companion (presumably a young woman)?</p>
Note	"Carrion" brings to mind the carpe diem poets ("Gather Ye Rosebuds") and also the poems of John Donne and also Emily Dickinson ("I Heard A Fly Buzz---"). They deal with mortality, the superficiality of beauty, and, perhaps more than anything, the impossibility of controlling or subverting nature's forces. Grotesque descriptions of rotting flesh can be found in Mary Shelly's Frankenstein.
V Finals	
16	Review, Essay, Exam