

Philosophy and Literature

Alice Cary and Stephen Mulhall

Michaelmas Term 2018

Required and recommended reading by weeks

1. Literature and Moral Philosophy: Ethical Criticism

Required reading

M. Nussbaum, *Love's Knowledge*, Chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2

R. Posner, 'Against Ethical Criticism I and II' (in *Philosophy and Literature* 1997 and 1998)

C. Diamond, 'Missing the Adventure' (in *The Realistic Spirit*)

Recommended reading

M. Nussbaum, *Love's Knowledge*, Chapter 6

H. James, *The Ambassadors*

N. Härmäläinen, *Literature and Moral Theory*, Chapters 1, 4, and 5

2. Philosophy and Literature: Iris Murdoch

Required reading

I. Murdoch, "Vision and Choice in Morality"

I. Murdoch, *The Black Prince*

M. Nussbaum, "Faint with Secret Knowledge": Love and Vision in Murdoch's *The Black Prince* in Broackes (ed), *Iris Murdoch, Philosopher*

Recommended reading

N. Forsberg, *Language Lost and Found: On Iris Murdoch and the Limits of Philosophical Discourse*, esp. Chapters 1 and 4

3. Morality, Rationality, Imagination

Required reading

O. O'Neill, 'Critical Review of Clark', *Journal of Philosophy* 77 (1980)

C. Diamond, 'Anything But Argument?' (in *The Realistic Spirit*)

O. O'Neill, 'The Power of Example', *Philosophy* 61 (1986)

S. Mulhall, *The Wounded Animal*, Chapter 1

Recommended reading

S. Clark, *The Moral Status of Animals* (1977), Introduction and Chapter 1.

C. Diamond, 'Eating Meat and Eating People' (in *The Realistic Spirit*)

J. Habermas, 'Excursus on Leveling the Genre Distinction Between Philosophy and Literature' in *Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*

J. McMahan, 'Our Fellow Creatures', *Journal of Ethics* (2005)

4. First Literary Case Study: J.M. Coetzee's *Lives of Animals*

Required reading

J. M. Coetzee et al. *The Lives of Animals*, including the responses by Singer and Smuts
S. Cavell et al., *Philosophy and Animal Life*, the chapters by Cavell, Diamond and McDowell

Recommended reading

S. Mulhall, *The Wounded Animal*, Part One

P. Singer and K. Dawn, 'Converging Conviction: Coetzee and his Characters on Animals' in Singer and Leist (eds), *J. M. Coetzee and Ethics*

5. Aesthetic modernism in reference to visual and literary arts

Required reading

Stanley Cavell, 'Aesthetic Problems of Modern Philosophy', in *Must We Mean What We Say?*

Michael Fried, 'The Primacy of Absorption', Chapter 1 of *Absorption and Theatricality*

E.H. Gombrich, 'Truth and the Stereotype: An Illusion Theory of Representation' in *Art and Illusion*

Recommended reading

C. Greenberg, 'Modernist Painting' in *The Collected Essays and Criticism Vol 4*

L. Nochlin, 'The Nature of Realism' in *Realism*

6. Modernism and realism in literature

Required reading

S. Mulhall, 'Realism, Modernism and the Novel', in *The Wounded Animal*.

I. Watt, 'Realism and the Novel Form', in *The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson and Fielding*.

J. Wood, 'Truth, Convention, and Realism', in *How Fiction Works*

Recommended reading

T. Eagleton, 'After the Wake', in *The English Novel*

B. Harrison, 'Realism' in Richard Eldridge, ed., *The Oxford Handbook to Philosophy and Literature*

L. Trilling, 'Manners, Morals and the Novel' (1948) in O'Conner, ed., *Forms of Fiction*

V. Woolf, 'Modern Fiction' and 'Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown', in *The Captain's Deathbed and Other Essays*

We can envisage two ways of continuing the class beyond this point, between which the group can choose. The first involves delving more deeply into Coetzee, and his most recent work:

Second Literary Case Study: J.M. Coetzee's so-called "Jesus Series"

Za Childhood

Required reading

J. M. Coetzee, *The Childhood of Jesus*

- S. Mulhall, 'Health and Deviance, Irony and Incarnation' in Hayes (ed), *Beyond the Ancient Quarrel: Literature, Philosophy and J. M. Coetzee*
A. Crary, 'Coetzee's Quest for Reality', in Hayes op. cit.

Recommended reading

Uhlmann and Rutherford (eds), *J. M. Coetzee's The Childhood of Jesus*, esp. the essays by Pippin, Rutherford and Mehigan

8a School

Required Reading

J.M. Coetzee, *The Schooldays of Jesus*

The second alternative involves looking in more detail at the development of theories of the novel in a broader, European context:

Farther Afield—Classic Theory of the Novel

7b Mimesis and Realism

Required reading

E. Auerbach, *Mimesis* esp. 'Odysseus' Scar'

G. Lukacs, *Theory of the Novel*, Part I

Note: for the purposes of the Lukacs portion of the reading for this week, it will be helpful to have a familiarity with Tolstoy's War and Peace

Recommended reading

W. Benjamin, 'The Storyteller' and 'The Crisis of the Novel'

8b Ethics and Politics

Required reading

Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov* (esp Books 5 and/or 11)

M. Bakhtin, excerpts from *Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays* as published in Michael McKeon, ed., *Theory of the Novel*, esp. the first 15 pages

G. Lukacs, *Theory of the Novel*, Part II, ch 4

Recommended reading

R. Williams, *Dostoevsky*, Ch 3

G. Lukacs, 'The Ideology of Modernism', and 'Franz Kafka or Thomas Mann' in *Realism in Our Time: Literature and the Class Struggle*