

LT301 Concepts of the Person

Seminar Leader: James Harker
Course Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 15:45-17:15
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James's Office Hours: Thursdays 13:30-15:30

Course Description

This course will examine terms for the person that are important for literature and literary theory. We will begin with probably the most important such term in literary study, "character," and processes by which characters are created and understood. What is the relationship of character to action? What distinguishes a character from an agent? We will compare accounts of "character" with the concept of "personality" as it emerged in the twentieth century and "mind" as it is understood in analytic philosophy. We will look at the literary theory of "mind style," the concept of "theory of mind" as well as the growing interest in literary treatments of "mind." Finally we will consider treatments of the "subject" as well as "identity." Our examination of theories of the agent, character, personality, mind, and identity will be complemented by our reading of novels from three distinct periods: Aphra Behn's *Oronooko*, William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*, and Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-Time*. There will be a research component to the course, and each participant will select additional critical sources to read.

Requirements

Students are required to attend all classes, to come to class prepared and with the relevant materials and texts. After the first incidence, coming to class without a paper copy of the assigned text will be marked as an absence.

Participation consists in contributing productively to class discussion in a respectful manner, and in demonstrating a sound knowledge of the texts assigned.

Please note that in seminars we will work with printed texts only. NO COMPUTERS OR TABLETS are allowed in class. Texts which are made available in digital format should be printed for use in class.

The following texts must be purchased in paper form:

William Faulkner *The Sound and the Fury*
Mark Haddon *The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-Time*
A Course Reader

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Attendance

Please note that attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.

Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

Assessment and Grade Breakdown

Participation:	20%
Midterm Essay (1500 words):	20%
Review of Literature (1500 words)	20%
Seminar Summary (2 x 500 words)	20%
Final Essay (1500 words):	20%

Schedule

Week 1: The Agent

Monday, January 28	Introduction
Wednesday, January 30	Vladimir Propp from <i>Morphology of the Folktale</i>

Week 2: From Agent to Character

Monday, February 4	Henry James from <i>The Art of the Novel</i>
Wednesday, February 6	E.M. Forster from <i>Aspects of the Novel</i>

Week 3: A Proto-Novel

Monday, February 11	Aphra Behn <i>Oronooko</i>
Wednesday, February 13	Aphra Behn <i>Oronooko</i>

Week 4: Personality

Monday, February 18	Carl Jung from <i>Psychological Types</i>
Wednesday, February 20	Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator Excerpts from DSM V

Week 5: Minds: Transparent, Fictional, and Exceptional

Monday, March 4	Käte Hamburger from <i>The Logic of Literature</i> Dorrit Cohn from <i>Transparent Minds</i> David Herman from <i>The Emergence of Mind</i>
Wednesday, March 6	Alan Palmer from <i>Fictional Minds</i>

Week 6: The Social Origins of the Self

Monday, February 25	Lev Vygotsky from <i>Thought and Language</i>
Wednesday, February 27	Marjorie Taylor from <i>Imaginary Companions and the Children Who Create Them</i> Suzanne Keen from <i>Empathy and the Novel</i>

Week 7 Modernism and Mind Style

Monday, March 11	William Faulkner <i>The Sound and The Fury</i>
Wednesday, March 13	William Faulkner <i>The Sound and The Fury</i>
Friday, March 15 Midterm Essay Due	

Week 8:

Monday, March 18	William Faulkner <i>The Sound and The Fury</i> Michael Short and Geoffrey Leech from <i>Style in Fiction</i>
Wednesday, March 20	William Faulkner <i>The Sound and The Fury</i>

Week 9: Intentionality

Monday, March 25	John Searle "Minds, Brains, and Programs"
Wednesday, March 27	Daniel Dennett from <i>The Intentional Stance</i>

Week 10: Mindblindness and Theory of Mind

Monday, April 1	Simon Baron-Cohen from <i>Mindblindness</i>
Wednesday, April 3	Lisa Zunshine from <i>Why We Read Fiction</i>

Week 11: Disability and Mind

Monday, April 8	Mark Haddon <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-Time</i>
Wednesday, April 10	Mark Haddon <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-Time</i>
Friday, April 12 Review of Literature Due	

Spring Break

Week 12: The Subject

Monday, April 22 Spring Break

Wednesday, April 24 Emile Benveniste “Subjectivity in Language”

Week 13

Monday, April 29 Michel Foucault “The Subject and Power”

Wednesday, May 1 Holiday (no class)

Week 14: Identity and Intersectionality

Monday, May 6 Kimberlé Crenshaw “Mapping the Margins”

Wednesday, May 8 Wrap-Up

Completion Week

Tuesday, May 14 Final Essay Due