10.07 The Emergence of the Modern
3 hours, 3 credits

Study of a series of major works in literature, from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries, with special attention to the development of secular culture. Attention to the rise of the bourgeoisie, the growth of the individualism and of subjectivity, and the transformations in codes of representation.

Prerequisite: Junior standing or and satisfaction of all lower-tier requirements in Arts and Literatures.

Core Goals

1. To develop the ability to think critically and creatively, to reason logically, to reason quantitatively, and to express one’s thoughts orally and in writing with clarity and precision (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21).

2. To understand the arts, histories and cultures of the past as a foundation for those of the present (3,4).

Core Objectives:

1. Critical thinking: Students will examine a series of literary works in the early modern to modern periods and consider how they show the development of the independent subject. (9)

2. An understanding of major forms of literary and artistic achievement. (4)

3. An understanding of the past. (3)

4. Effective writing: Students will write thoughtful analysis of individual works. They will write analyses in which they compare two or more works in terms of structure, characterization, themes, and language (11)

Outcomes

1. Students can recognize and distinguish different forms of character construction

2. Students can recognize and distinguish the notable characteristics of various genres: epic, tragedy, comedy, poetry, European novel, non-Western fiction.

3. Students can recognize and distinguish a series of literary periods and consider the place of major works in those periods.

4. Students will be able to use writing to reflect on their learning and understand difficult material.
Course Outline:

**Weeks 1 & 2**  
**Medieval Literature**  
Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*  
Or  
Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy.*

**Weeks 3 & 4**  
**Renaissance Literature**  
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*  
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet, Othello, or King Lear*

**Weeks 5 & 6**  
**Baroque & Eighteenth Century Literature**  
Two of the following:  
Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*  
Voltaire, *Candide*  
Moliere, *Tartuffe*

**Weeks 7 & 8**  
**English and American Romantic Poetry**  
Selections from any of the following poets:  
William Blake  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
George Gordon, Lord Byron  
Percy Bysshe Shelley  
John Keats  
Walt Whitman  
Emily Dickinson

**Weeks 9 & 10**  
**A work from a non-Western literary tradition**  
One of the following:  
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
Athol Fugard, *Statements: Three Plays*  
Anonymous, *The Thousand and One Nights*

**Weeks 11 & 12**  
**Nineteenth Century Fiction**  
A work by one of the following:  
Jane Austen  
Stendhal  
Emily Bronte  
Charles Dickens  
Gustave Flaubert  
George Eliot  
Henry James
Mark Twain

**Weeks 13 & 14**

**Twentieth-Century Fiction**

A work by one of the following:

- James Joyce
- Virginia Woolf
- F. Scott Fitzgerald
- William Faulkner
- Ralph Ellison
- Toni Morrison

**Method of Evaluation:**

Midterm, 20%. Term paper, 30%. Final 30%. Class participation 20%.

**Method of Assessment**

1. In-class essays and presentations will allow students to recognize and distinguish different forms of character construction.

2. Response papers and in-class quizzes will allow students to delineate and discuss the characteristics of various genres: epic, tragedy, comedy, poetry, European novel, non-Western fiction

3. Research papers and comparative essays will allow students to connect their understandings of character construction and of genre with historical and social context.

4. Essays and examinations will allow students to reflect on their learning and their understanding of difficult material.

**Bibliography:**

**Required Texts:**

Instructors will choose appropriate inexpensive editions of the texts they choose from the list. Inexpensive paperbacks of all these texts are readily available.

**Background Reading**


