

**Department of English Literature**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Prešov University**

**Course:** Interpretation of a literary text  
Single majors  
summer semester

**Instructors:** PaedDr. Miloš Blahút

room: 243

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**Consultation hours:** **Monday 9:30 – 10:30**  
**Thursday 11:30 – 12:30**

**Room:** 243

**Course description and aims:** the aim of the course is to encourage the students to analyze and interpret literary texts from literature through various methods and approaches, such as formalistic, feministic, biographical, or Marxist. Through close reading, students analyze short stories, novels, as well as poems and exchange their opinions in a lively discussion. Students learn to use recent narratological terms and apply them in their assignments.

**Course outline**

**WEEK 1**

Introduction: Literature and its definition

**WEEK 2**

Literary history

**WEEK 2**

Literary theory  
Literary genres.

**WEEK 3**

Theme  
*Doris Lessing: A Mild Attack of Locusts*

**WEEK 4**

Plot versus story  
*J. Conrad: The Lagoon*

**WEEK 5**

Narration and perspective.  
*V. Woolf: New Dress*

**WEEK 6**

Characters and characterisation.  
*K. Masfield:*

**WEEK 7**

Style  
*A. Carter: Flesh and the Mirror*

## WEEK 8

Structure

David Lodge: Hotel des Boobs

## WEEK 9

Setting, atmosphere, tone.

*Seán Ó Faoláin:*

## WEEK 10

Language and dialogue

## WEEK 11

Reader and critic

## WEEK 12

Critical approaches to literature (formalist, reader-response, feminist, biographical, narratological, archetypal, psychological, Marxist)

## Assessment

To obtain credit, students are required to:

- Come to classes prepared (students will have read the literary texts which are subject of discussion before each seminar)
- Complete homework assignments
- Be active during the seminar
- Submit a 3- to 5-page long analysis of a given literary work

## Recommended literature and websites

Culler Jonathan. Krátky úvod do literární teorie. Brno, Host 2002.

Hawthorn, Jeremy. Studying the Novel. 4th ed. London: Arnold, 2001.

Lodge, David. The Art of Fiction. New York: Viking, 1993.

Pokrivčák, A. – Pokrivčáková, S.: Focus on Literature. Nitra: UKF, 2004

Peprník, M. Směry literární interpretace XX. století. Texty, komentáře. Olomouc: UP, 2000

Simpson, Paul. 1993. Language, Ideology and Point of View. London: Routledge, 1993.

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