



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND MEDIA

ENGLISH

ARTS3038

Henry James: Art, Travel and Boundless Desire

Session 1, 2014

A Level 3 course within the English major

6 units of credit

Contents of Course Outline

Summary of the course	1
Textbooks	2
Staff contact details	2
Times and venues of lectures and seminars	2
Course Aims	2
Learning Outcomes	3
Graduate attributes	3
Teaching and learning methods	3-4
How you should engage with the course	4
Course schedule	4
Assessment	5-6
Submission of assignments	6-7
Resources for students	7
Course evaluation and development	7

Summary of the Course

Henry James is famous for bringing the English novel to an unprecedented pitch of technical sophistication and for creating some of the most vivid and enduring characters in our literature. The novel, however, was only one aspect of James's astonishingly versatile achievement. This sustained author study will take in the full spectrum of James's writing: alongside James the canonical novelist, we will read James the pathbreaking literary critic and theorist, James the master of the short story, and James the acute travel writer. We will situate James's career in time and space, exploring a transitional period in the history of English literature and charting the profound impact of European places on the imagination of this expatriate American.

Textbooks

James, *The American* (Oxford World's Classics)
 James, *Turn of the Screw* (Oxford World's Classics)
 James, *Selected Tales* (Penguin)
 James, *The Portrait of a Lady* (Oxford World's Classics)
 James, *What Maisie Knew* (Oxford World's Classics)
 All other materials will be uploaded to the Moodle site .

Staff contact details

Course convenor, lecturer and tutor:
 Associate Professor Helen Groth
 Email: h.groth@unsw.edu.au
 Room: Webster 220
 Telephone: 9385 4864
 Consultation hour: Tuesday 2-3pm

Course lecturer:
 Dr John Attridge
 Email: j.attridge@unsw.edu.au
 Room: Webster 228
 Telephone: 9358 4484
 Consultation hours: Wednesday 2-4pm

Times and venues of lectures and seminars

Lectures: Tuesday 12-1, ChemSC M11 (all students must attend)
 Seminars (students must enroll in one of the following classes):

- Monday 1-3, Webster 306
- Tuesday 10-12, Webster 306

Course Aims

This module within the 'Author Study' shelf course introduces students to the work of one of the greatest novelists to have written in English. It builds on the knowledge of literary narrative and fictional forms gained in the two Level 1 English courses, and offers a pathway of progression and increased specialization from both ARTS2036 American Literature and ARTS2038 The Novel. With the aim of encompassing the full range of Henry James's writing, the module will include study of novels, short stories and non-fiction. It will explore synergies between literary theory and creative practice in the work of a novelist who was also an acute (and revolutionary) literary critic. It will also investigate the crucial place of travel and travel writing in the development of James's novelistic vision. Texts will be viewed in their literary-historical context and students will explore how James developed his distinctive style and voice in dialogue with the works of both predecessors and contemporaries. We will also consider how the category of authorship itself works to organise literary knowledge and to frame our reception of literary works. This sustained inquiry also serves to introduce the forms of extended research encountered in fourth-year Honours.

Learning outcomes

1. Knowledge of Henry James's cultural context and his significance within it.
2. Understanding of the distinctive features of James's achievement in a variety of genres.
3. Understanding of several different nineteenth-century prose genres and their significance in James's oeuvre.
4. Ability to speak and write critically and cogently about different genres of prose literature.
5. Ability to engage critically with existing research in the field of Henry James studies.

Graduate Attributes

This course helps to develop the following graduate attributes of the English major:

1. Skills in literary analysis through close reading of texts in English
2. Knowledge of the main periods and branches of English literature
3. Ability to relate literary texts to the contexts in which they were produced
4. Ability to reflect upon one's own practice as a literary critic within the discipline of English
5. Ability to make and justify aesthetic judgments about texts
6. Understanding of how texts are produced
7. Skills in English expression and composition.

Teaching and learning methods used

The course is taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and online teaching and learning tools.

- Lectures provide students with a framework for engaging with the texts and ideas discussed in seminars and written assignments. Course lecturers will situate James's writings in their cultural and intellectual milieu, providing essential historical coordinates for the critical reading of his work. They will introduce the four distinct modes of writing studied in this course and trace James's trajectory as an author from his early fiction to his late essays. They will provide examples of textual analysis and illustrate the conventions of literary argument.
- Within the framework provided by lectures, readings and online materials and activities, seminars provide a forum for students to develop their independent critical engagement with course texts and concepts. Elaborating and enriching the themes introduced in lectures, seminars will foster skills of close reading and literary analysis and encourage students both to formulate their own arguments clearly and to engage with the arguments of others.
- Moodle will be used to share supporting materials and to communicate essential information to students. Moodle will also provide the platform for Assessment Task 1 (the development of seminar discussion topics). All students enrolled in the course will be automatically enrolled in the Moodle module for the course.

The teaching methods used and the assessment components you are required to complete have been developed to reflect a philosophy of learning and teaching which

- fosters an engaging and inclusive learning experience
- promotes dialogical teaching through seminar discussions

- seeks to give every student a stake in, and an opportunity to contribute to, the course as a forum for learning.

Seminar and lecture attendance is compulsory; university regulations stipulate that you must attend at least 80% of classes in order to qualify to pass the course.

How you should engage with the course

You are expected to

- read the course textbooks before the class in which they are discussed
- come to class on time
- listen attentively to lectures, absorb the information provided, and think independently about it
- develop your own critical perspectives on the literary texts and on a range of recommended secondary readings. *NEVER PLAGIARIZE!*
- come to seminars *with the book*, prepared to talk about it
- complete all assessment tasks on time and within the word limit

Course schedule

Week Beginning	Lecture	Seminar
1. 3 March	Introduction (HG)	No seminar
2. 10 March	Early stories and travel writing (HG)	'Four Meetings' in <i>Selected Tales</i>
3. 17 March	<i>The American</i> (HG)	<i>The American</i>
4. 24 March	<i>The American</i> (HG)	<i>The American</i>
5. 31 March	<i>Turn of the Screw</i> (HG)	<i>Turn of the Screw</i>
6. 7 April	<i>What Maisie Knew</i> (JA)	<i>What Maisie Knew</i>
7. 14 April	<i>Beast in the Jungle and Jolly Corner</i> (JA)	'The Beast in the Jungle' & 'The Jolly Corner' in <i>Selected Tales</i>
Mid-Semester	18 th April – 27 th April	
8. 28 April	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> (HG)	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>
9. 5 th May	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> (HG)	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>
10. 12 th May	Criticism (JA)	'The Art of Fiction' (course reader) and Preface to <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>
11. 19 th May	'Daisy Miller' (JA)	'Daisy Miller' in <i>Selected Tales</i>
12. 26 th May	Stories of artists and writers (JA)	'The Death of the Lion', 'The Lesson of the Master' (in <i>Selected Tales</i>) and 'The Private Life' (course reader)
13. 2 nd June	No lecture	'In the Cage' in <i>Selected Tales</i>

Assessment

There are three components to the assessment for this course. In order to pass the course, you must make a serious attempt at ALL three assessment tasks.

1. Moodle posting.

Each student must prepare a topic for seminar discussion, to be posted on the course Moodle site no later than 5pm the day before the assigned class. The posting should consist of 500 words of properly written prose (no bullet points) and should end with a question to be addressed by students in class. The student is also responsible for introducing the topic in class (approx 5 minutes). An online sign-up page will be available in week 1, and students must have signed up for a particular week by the end of week 2.

Worth: 20%

Purpose of assessment exercise:

- encourages active engagement in tutorial discussion
- fosters the formation of independent points of view on the texts and concepts discussed in lectures
- builds communication skills
- encourages collaborative learning

Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4

Graduate attributes: 1, 3, 5, 6

Marking Criteria:

- evidence of detailed textual knowledge
- evidence of thoughtful reflection on texts, secondary reading and/or lectures
- ability to articulate ideas clearly and organise them logically
- originality and intelligence of points raised
- quality and correctness of writing

2. Short essay

You will answer a comparative question on the novel *What Maisie Knew* and one other text chosen by you from the shorter fiction or non-fiction writings studied in weeks one to seven.

Word length: 1,000-1,500 words

Due: Thursday 17th April, 4pm

Worth: 30%

Purpose of assessment exercise: This task will give you the opportunity to engage closely with James's distinctive narrative style and complex psychological portrayal of character and social dynamics. You will develop your skills of literary analysis and argument and have the opportunity to implement the feedback you receive into your preparation for your final major essay.

Learning outcomes: 2, 4

Graduate attributes: 1, 5, 6

Marking criteria:

- clarity and correctness of expression
- textual knowledge demonstrated by close reference to the texts
- presentation of a coherent thesis
- logical organisation of ideas
- quality and persuasiveness of literary analysis

3. Major essay.

In the major essay, you will be asked to write on two texts you have studied, including at least one of the major novels - *The American* and *The Portrait of a Lady*. Thus, you may choose to write on *The American* OR *The Portrait of a Lady* AND a text or texts chosen from James's travel writing, essays or shorter fiction (including *Daisy Miller*), or else you may choose to write on BOTH *The American* AND *The Portrait of a Lady*.

Word length: 2,500 words

Due: Thursday 12th June, 4pm

Worth: 50%

Purpose of assessment exercise: this task invites you to argue a sustained thesis combining two or more different texts from James's oeuvre. You will develop your independent engagement with the syllabus further, as you determine which texts to place in relation with each other, and as you choose those elements from each that support your argument.

Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Graduate attributes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Marking criteria:

- presentation of a coherent thesis
- textual knowledge demonstrated by close reference to the texts
- evidence of independent engagement with relevant secondary sources
- an independent approach to the question, which does not merely recycle other positions and arguments
- logical organisation of ideas
- clarity and correctness of expression
- consistent use of a recognised style of academic referencing (eg. Chicago, MLA or Harvard).

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Your **blog posting** must be submitted online to the ARTS3038 Moodle site by 5pm the day before the assigned class; you must also bring a hard copy to class and hand it to your tutor for marking. **Essays**: a hard copy of your essay should be placed in the box marked ARTS3038 outside the SAM office on Level 3 of Webster by 4pm on the due date. Each essay must also be submitted electronically via Turnitin; this submission facility will be available via Moodle. You must supply a stamped self-addressed envelope with your **second essay** if you wish to receive comments.

Late Submission: If your assignment is submitted after the due date, a penalty of 3% per day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays) will be imposed for up to 2 weeks. For example, if you are given a mark of 72 out of 100 for an essay, and your essay were handed in two days late, it would attract a penalty of 6% and the mark would be reduced to 66%. If the same essay were handed in seven days late a penalty of 21% would be applied and it would receive a mark of 51%. If your assignment is not submitted within 2 weeks of its due date, it will receive 0 marks. Late work will not receive detailed feedback.

Extension Procedure: In the case of illness or misadventure you may apply to the Course Convenor for an extension of the due date. Paid work, family commitments, religious holidays or work due in other courses are not acceptable reasons for extension requests, since the possibility of such events is supposed to be taken into account by students when managing their time. Short illnesses close to the submission date will not be considered grounds for extension unless medical documentation is supplied **and** evidence of significant progress in an assessment task is demonstrated. Extensions must be applied for to the course convenor **in advance of the due date** and will generally only be granted for a period of 2-3 days or up to 1 week in more serious cases.

Special Consideration: In the case of more serious or ongoing illness or misadventure, you will need to apply for Special Consideration. For information on Special Consideration please go to this URL:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

Students who are prevented from attending a substantial amount of the course may be advised to apply to the Faculty to withdraw without failure. This will only be approved in the most extreme and properly documented cases.

Attendance requirements

To pass this course you are required to attend at least 80% of lectures and tutorials. Therefore, only two tutorial absences and four lecture absences are permitted.

Essential Information for SAM Students

Please download Essential Information and SAM assessment policy from this link:
<https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

Academic honesty and plagiarism

You should be familiar with the UNSW Plagiarism Policy from your Elise training. The Learning Centre provides further information at: www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism

Please be aware that I will be making use of the similarity detection tool Turnitin to review all written assignments, and will refer cases of confirmed plagiarism to the School's Ethics officer.

You should also be aware that when you submit a UNSW course assignment online, through a facility such as Turnitin etc., you are automatically acknowledging that you have understood and abided by the University requirements in respect of student academic misconduct outlined in the Student Code Policy and Student Misconduct Procedures- both of which are available at

(<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/StudentMisconduct.html>).

You are also declaring that the assessment item is your own work, except where acknowledged, and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part. In addition, you are declaring that the assessor of this item may, for assessment purposes:

- provide a copy to another staff member of the University
- communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (such as Turnitin) which may then retain a copy of the assessment item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

Course evaluation and development

CATEI will be used to gather student feedback on the course, in the effort to improve the student learning experience year by year.