

Advanced Higher English

Dissertation

Armada Academy Library Suggestions

Crime

Classic “detective” stories

Key features: inquiries - large number of suspects – red herrings – reconstruction of crime – final twist

Edgar Allan Poe	The murder in the Rue Morgue (C Auguste Dupin) (1841) The purloined letter (1844)
Wilkie Collins	The moonstone (1868)
Arthur Conan Doyle	The hound of the Baskervilles (Sherlock Homes) (1902)
Dorothy L Sayers	Various with Lord Peter Wimsey
Agatha Christie	Various

Hard-boiled detective novel (1920s - 1960s)

Key features: Flawed hero- unsentimental- works alone- brutal- hard-up detective- urban landscape

James M Cain	The postman always rings twice (1934)
Raymond Chandler-	The big sleep (Philip Marlowe) (1939) Farewell my lovely (1940) The long goodbye (1953)
Dashiell Hammett –	The Maltese falcon (Sam Spade) (1930) The thin man (1934)

Police Procedurals

Key features: realistic description of police work- various unrelated crimes-perpetrator may be known from outset.

P D James	The skull beneath the skin (1982)
Quintine Jardine	Skinner’s rules (1993)
Georges Simenon	Maigret in Montmartre (1951)
Maj Sjewell & Per Wahloo	The Laughing policeman (Beck) (1968)
Ed McBain	Killer’s choice (87 th Precinct novel) (1957)
Ian Rankin	Knots and crosses (Rebus) (1987)
Martin Cruz Smith	Gorky Park (Arkada Renko)(1981)

Psychological thrillers-

Key features: Focus on the criminal - the insane- horror

Iain Banks	The wasp factory (1984)
Albert Camus	The stranger (outsider) 1942
Truman Capote	In cold blood (1966) written as non-fiction
Wilkie Collins	The woman in white (1858)
Daphne du Maurier	Rebecca (1938)
James Ellroy	The black Dahlia (1987) The big nowhere (1988) LA confidential (1990)
John Fowles	The collector (1963)
Graham Greene	Brighton Rock (1938)
Dennis Lehane	Shutter island (2009)
Thomas Harris	The silence of the lambs (1988)
Patricia Highsmith	The talented Mr Ripley (1955) Strangers on a train (1950)
Ian McEwan	Enduring love (1997)
Edgar Allan Poe	Tell-tale heart (1843) (short story)
Edgar Allan Poe	The black cat (1843) (short story)
Ruth Rendell	The lake of darkness (1976)
Muriel Spark	The driver's seat (1970)
Barbara Vine	A dark adapted eye (1986)

Scandinavian Noir

Key features: Simple prose - dramatic plots - social criticism - influence of landscape

Peter Hoeg	Miss Smilia's feeling for snow (1992)
Steig Larsson	The girl with the dragon tattoo (2005)
Henning Mankell	Faceless killers (1991)
Jo Nesbo	The snowman (2007)
Maj Sjewell & Per Wahloo	The terrorists (1975)

Tartan Noir-

Key features: Scottish – cynical - world weary - gritty

Christopher Brookmyre	One fine day in the middle of the night (1999)
Val McDermid	The mermaid's singing (1995)
William McIlvanney	Laidlaw (1977)
Ian Rankin	Black and Blue (1997)
Robert Louis Stevenson	The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1886)
Louise Welsh	The cutting room (2002)

Crime novels as social commentary

Key features: crime story told in context of social, economic, historic development of a country

Andrea Camilleri	Montelbano novels - set in Sicily The snack thief (corrupt govt, immigrants) (1996)
Ian Rankin	Rebus novels- set in Scotland Black and Blue (Scottish identity) (1997)

	Fleshmarket Close (refugees, asylum seekers) (2004)
	Mortal Causes (sectarianism) (1994)
Alexander McCall Smith	No 1 ladies detective agency novels set in Botswana (gender, modernity)
Qiu Xiaolong	Death of a red heroine (2000) (corruption, changing culture)

Crime and science fiction (Cyberpunk)

Key features:

William Gibson Neuromancer (1984)

Gothic Horror

Key features: Terror – romanticism - wild remote settings - castles/ large houses in ruins - supernatural

Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre (1847)
Emily Bronte	Wuthering heights (1847)
Angela Carter	The bloody chamber (1979) (short stories collection)
Angela Carter	Burning your boats (1995)
Angela Carter	The magic toyshop (late 20th century)
Wilkie Collins	The moonstone (1868)
	The woman in white (1859)
Arthur Conan Doyle	The hound of the Baskervilles (1902)
Michael Faber	Under the skin (2000)
Susan Hill	The woman in black (1983)
Henry James	Turn of the screw (1898)
Stephen King	Pet sematary (1983)
Gastone Leroux	Phantom of the opera (1909)
Daphne du Maurier	Rebecca (1938)
Mervyn Peake	Gormenghast trilogy (1946-1959)
Edgar Allan Poe	Fall of House of Usher (1839) (short story)
Edgar Allan Poe	Ligeia (1838) (short story)
Anne Rice	Interview with the vampire (1976)
Mary Shelley	Frankenstein (1818)
Robert Louis Stevenson	The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1886)
Bram Stoker	Dracula (1897)
Patrick Suskind	Perfume (1986)
Edith Wharton	Ghost stories- various collection 1890-1937
Oscar Wilde	Picture of Dorian Gray (1890)

Magical Realism

Key features: World appears very much like our own - however will also include an element of the extraordinary.

Isabel Allende	House of the spirits (1982)
Jorge Louis Borges	Labyrinths (1953) Collected fictions (1998)
Angela Carter	Nights at the circus (1984) Wise children (1991)
Paul Coello	The alchemist (1988)
Jim Crace	Quarantine (1997)
Neil Gaiman	The ocean at the end of the lane (2013)
Gunter Grass	Tin drum (1959)
Joanna Harris	Chocolat (1999)
Mark Helprin	Winter's Tale (1983)
Alice Hoffman	Practical magic (1995)
Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Love in the time of cholera (1985) One hundred years of solitude (1967)
Yan Mantel	The life of Pi (2001)
Toni Morrison	Beloved (1987) Song of Solomon (1977)
Tea Obrecht	The Tiger's wife (2011)
Ben Okri	The famished road (1991)
Arundhati Roy	God of small things (1997)
Salman Rushdie	Midnight's children (1981) Satanic verses (1988)
Patrick Suskind	Perfume (1986)
Carlos Ruiz Zafron	The shadow of the wind (2001)

Modernist Literature (1910-1960)

Key features: Focus on inner self and stream of consciousness -
decline of civilization with increased capitalism and alienated individuals - loneliness
Use of satire, irony - often first person narrative

Epitomized by two main works

William Faulkner:	As I lay dying (1930)
Virginia Woolf:	Mrs Dalloway (1925)

Other authors

Samuel Beckett	Malone dies (1951)
Joseph Conrad	Heart of darkness (1899)
T S Eliot	The wasteland (1922)
William Faulkner	The sound and the fury (1927)
James Joyce	A portrait of the artist as a young man (1916) Ulysses (1922)
Jack Kerouac	On the road (1957) (Non-fiction)

D H Lawrence	Lady Chatterley's lover (1928)
	Sons and lovers (1913)
Virginia Woolf	To the lighthouse (1927)

The following are also regarded as modernists with similar concerns but do not follow the stream of consciousness techniques to the same extent.

“Less is more” style of writing.

Ernest Hemingway	Various
John Steinbeck	Of mice and men (1937)
	The grapes of wrath (1939)
	The pearl (1947)

Parallel Narratives

Michael Cunningham	The hours (1998)
Rachel Cusk	The lucky ones (2003)
William Faulkner	Go down Moses (1962)
William Golding	Darkness visible (1979)
David Mitchell	Cloud Atlas (2004)
	Ghostwritten (1999)
Rachel Seiffert	The Dark Room (2001)

Race/ Cultural identity

Chinua Achebe	Things fall apart (1958) Africa, anti-colonial
Geraldine Brooks	March (2005) USA -American civil war, slavery
Tracy Chevalier	The last runaway (2015) USA - slavery
Harold Courlander	The African (1967) USA basis for Haley's Roots- USA Slavery
Ralph Ellison	The invisible man (1952) USA -African identity
E. M. Forster	Passage to India (1924) Colonial India -British racial tension
Arthur Golden	Memoirs of a Geisha (1997)
David Guterson	Snow falling on cedars (1994) USA Japanese war
Alex Haley	Roots (see Courlander) (1976)
Mohsin Hamid	The reluctant fundamentalist (2008) Pakistani in America
Anchi Hin	The last Empress (2007) China
Khalid Hossein	Kite runner (2003) Afghanistan A thousand splendid suns (2007)Afghanistan
Zole Neale Hurston	Their eyes were watching god (1937) USA -black - female
Sue Monk Kidd	The secret life of bees (2001) USA – black- female
Hanif Kureisha	Buddha of Suburbia (1990) Asian culture -UK
Harper Lee	To kill a mocking bird (1960) USA
Andrea Levy	Small Island (2004) Black Britons

Toni Morrison	Beloved (1987) USA- Slavery – black female
Alan Paton	Cry, the beloved country (1948) South Africa
Zadie Smith	White teeth (2000) UK -immigrants
Kathryn Stockett	The help (2009) USA Slavery
Harriet Beacher Stowe	Uncle Tom's cabin (1952) USA- Slavery – note criticism of this novel for betrayal of black culture.
Alice Walker	The color purple (1982) USA- black- female-

Post colonial literature

Key features; Addresses issues relating to colonies that have become independent. Themes; oppression, re-writing of history, nationalistic pride, the under-dog. Often written from perspective of the former colonized. Key period 1950-1990.

Chinua Achebe	Things fall apart (1958) Uganda, end of British rule
Jean Rhys	Wide sargossa sea (1966)
Arundhati Roy	God of small things (1997) India,
Joseph Conrad	Heart of darkness (1899)
Salmon Rushdie	Midnight's children (1995)
Barbara Kingsolver	Poisonwood Bible (1998) Belgian Congo
Ben Okri	Famished road (1993)

Relationships/ Romance

Michael Ondaatje	The English patient (1992) passionate, painful, war
Margaret Atwood	Oryx and Crake (2004) futuristic
Jane Austen	Pride and Prejudice (1813) comedy, satire
Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre (1847) Romantic love
Emily Bronte	Wuthering Heights (1847) unrequited love?
A S Byatt	Possession (1990) Romance, wit
Marguerite Duras	The lover (1984)
EM Forster	A room with a view (1908)
John Fowles	The French Lieutenant's woman (1969)
Graham Greene	The end of the affair (1951), agonized, restrained passion,
	war time, insecurity
Ishiguro	The remains of the day
Choderlos de Laclos	Les Liason's Dangereuses (1782) Lust power, revenge,
	seduction
D H Lawrence	Women in love (1920)
Ian McEwan	Atonement (2001)
Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Love in the time of cholera
David Nichols	One day (2009)
Francois Sagan	Bonjour Tristesse (1954) adolescence
Berhard Schlink	The reader (1995)
Charles Webb	The graduate (1963)
Jeanette Winterson	The passion (1987)

Science Fiction

Key features: interest in science, impact on society, morality. May feature space travel/ time travel, parallel universes, extra-terrestrial life.

Gene Brewer	K-pax (1995)
Richard Matheson	I am legend (1954)
Kurt Vonnegut	Cat's cradle (1963)
H G Wells	The war of the worlds (1898)
	The time machine (1895)
John Wyndham	The day of the Triffids (1951)
	The Kraken wakes (1953)
	The Chrysalids (1955)
	The Midwich cuckoos (1957)

Utopian – Ideal society

Isaac Asimov	Foundation and Earth (1986) (Foundation series bk 5)
Ian M Banks	The player of games (1988) (Culture series bk 2)
	Excession (1996) (Culture series bk 5)
Arthur C Clarke	Childhood's end (1953)
Ursula Le Guin	The dispossessed (1974)
Jonathan Swift	Gulliver's travels (1735)
Thomas More	Utopia (1516)
H G Wells	Men like gods (1923)

Dystopian- apocalyptic- oppressive

Margaret Atwood	The handmaid's tale (1985)
	Oryx and crake (2003)
Ray Bradbury	Fahrenheit 451 (1953)
Anthony Burgess	Clockwork orange (1962)
William Golding	Lord of the flies (1954)
Kazuo Ishiguro	Never let me go (2005)
Aldous Huxley	Brave New World (1931)
Daniel Keyes	Flowers for Algernon (1966)
Stephen King	The running man (1985)
Jack London	The iron heel (1908)
George Orwell	1984 (1949)
H G Wells	The time machine (1895)

Post-apocalyptic

Philip K Dick	Do androids dream of electric sheep (1968)
Cormac McCarthy	The road (2006)

Comedic – Science fiction

Key features: satirizes standard science fiction conventions for comedic effect eg alien invasions, time travel.

Douglas Adams	The hitch-hiker's guide to the galaxy (1979) The restaurant at the end of the universe (1980) Life, the universe and everything (1982) Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency (1987)
Jasper Fforde	The Eyre affaire (2001)
Harry Harrison	The stainless steel rat (1961)
John Scalzi	Redshirts (2012)
Kurt Vonnegut	Slaughterhouse five (1969)
Charles Yu	How to live safely in a science fictional universe (2010)

Scottish (see also crime Tartan Noir)

Social history- realistic- non-sentimental

George Douglas Brown	The house with the green shutters (1901)
Lewis Grassie Gibbon	Sunset Song (1932)
Neil Gunn	Butcher's broom (1934) Silver darlings (1941)
Robin Jenkins	The cone gatherers (1955)
Jessie Kesson	The white bird passes (1958) Where the apple ripens (1985)
William McIlvanney	Docherty (1975)
Alan Warner	Morvern Callar
Irvine Welsh	Trainspotting

Sentimental - historic

Walter Scott	The Waverley novels (1814)
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Bildungsroman (Coming of age)

Key features: protagonist moves from youth to adulthood. Character change is usually necessary.

Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre (1847)
Anthony Burgess	A clockwork orange (1965)
Jonathan Coe	Rotter's club (1970)
Stephen Chbosky	The perks of being a wallflower (1999)
Charles Dickens	Great Expectations (1861)
Jeffrey Eugenides	The Virgin suicides (1993)
Susan Fletcher	Eve Green (2004)
L P Hartley	The Go-Between (1953)
Khaled Hossani	The kite runner (2003)
Colin MacInnes	Absolute beginners (1959)

Ian McEwan	Atonement (2001)
Joyce Carol Oates	Foxfire (1993)
J D Salinger	Catcher in the Rye (1951)
Dodie Smith	I capture the castle (1948)
Jeanette Winterson	Oranges are not the only fruit (1985) (gender)

Isolation

Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre (1847)
Ernest Hemingway	A moveable feast (1964)
Hilary Mantel	An experiment in love (1995)
Carson McCullers	The heart is a lonely hunter (1940)
Sylvia Plath	The bell Jar (1963)
Jean Rhys	Good morning midnight (1939)
Virginia Woolf	To the lighthouse (1927)

Social issues

Angela Ashworth	Once in a house on fire (1998) (Memoir: alcohol, abuse)
L R Banks	The L shaped room (1960)(unmarried mother – fifties)
Anna Donovan	Buddha Da (2003) (family crises)
Roddy Doyle	The woman who walked into doors (1996) (abuse, alcohol)
	Paula Spencer (2006) (abuse, alcohol)
Jackie Kay	Trumpet (1998) (gender/identity)
Thomas Hardy	Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1892) (seducement, sexual hypocrisy)
Maggie O'Farrell	The vanishing act of Esme Lennox (2007) (mental illness, betrayal)
Alan Warner	Morvern caller (drugs, alcohol- morality)

Madness

Simone de Beauvoir	The mandarins (1954)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	The yellow wallpaper (short story) (1892)
Ken Kesey	One flew over the cuckoo's nest (1962)
Doris Lessing	The golden notebook (1962)
Sylvia Plath	The bell jar (1963)
William Shakespeare	Hamlet (1603)
Virginia Woolf	Mrs Dalloway (1925)

Unreliable narrator

The narrator deliberately withholds information - lies to the reader - may be due to immaturity, young age of narrator, health problems, memory.

John Banville	The Sea (2005)
Julian Barnes	The sense of an ending (2011)
Emma Donoghue	Room (2010)
F Scott Fitzgerald	The great Gatsby (1925)
Ford Madox Ford	The good soldier (1915)

Daman Galgut	In a strange room (2010)
Kazuo Ishiguro	The remains of the day (1989)
Harper Lee	To kill a mockingbird (1960)
Vladimir Nabokov	Lolitta (1955)
Chuck Palahniuk	Fight club (1996)
J D Salinger	Catcher in the rye (1951)
Lionel Shriver	We need to talk about Kevin (2005)
Mark Twain	Huckleberry Finn (1884)
Janice Galloway	The trick is to keep breathing (1989) (Alcoholic)
Alex Garland	Coma (2004) (Amnesia)
Lisa Genova	Still Alice (2007) (Alzheimer's)
Emma Healey	Elizabeth is missing (2014) (Dementia)
Susanna Kaysen	Girl interrupted (2000) (Memoir: mental illness)
Ken Kesey	One flew over the cuckoo's nest (1962) (Mental illness)
Sylvia Plath	The bell jar (1963) (Mental illness)
Edgar Allan Poe	The tell tale heart (short story) (Sanity crime)
Matthew Thomas	We are not ourselves (2014) (Early Alzheimer's)
S J Watson	Before I go to sleep (2011)(Trauma – memory loss)

War

William Boyd	Restless (2006) espionage WW11
Sebastian Faulks	Birdsong (1993) WW1-
Ford Madox Forde	Parade's End (1924-1929) WW1 Psychological effect of war
Norman Mailer	The naked and the dead (1948) WW11 - Asia
Margaret Mitchell	Gone with the wind (1936) American Civil War
Nicholas Monsarrat	The cruel sea (1951) Battle of the Atlantic
Leo Tolstoy	War and peace (1965-67) French invasion of Russia
Evelyn Waugh	Men at arms (1952) WW11

Anti-war

JG Ballard	Empire of the sun (1984) WW11 Japan
Pat Barker	Regeneration trilogy (1991) WW1 shellshock, masculinity, identity, social structure
Charles Frazier	Cold mountain (1997) American Civil War- Deserter
Gunter Grass	The tin drum (1959) WW11
Graham Greene	The quiet American (1955)
John Harris	Covenant with death (1961) WW1; Frontline
Joseph Heller	Catch 22 (1961) WW11 Satirical
Ernest Hemingway	A farewell to arms (1929) WW1
	For whom the bell tolls (1940)
Erich Marian Remarque	All quiet on the Western Front (1929) WW1
Neville Shute	On the beach (1957) WW111 aftermath of nuclear war
Dalton Trumbo	Johnny got his gun (1938) WW1
Kurt Vonnegut	Slaughterhouse 5 (1969) WW11 Satirical

Non-fiction Prose- Travel writing

Bill Bryson	Various
Jack Kerouac	On the road (1957)
Peter Mayle	A year in Provence (1989)
Jonathan Raban	Coasting (1987)
Paul Theroux	The Kingdom by the sea (1983)

Auto-biography

	<i>Theme- time and place</i>
Laurie Lee	Cider with Rosie (1959) As I walked out one summer morning (1969) I can't stay long (1979) A moment of war (1991)
	<i>Theme - Changing role of women, war</i>
Vera Brittain	Testament of Youth (1933)
	<i>Theme: War Memoirs</i>
Michael Asher	Shoot to kill: A soldier's journey through violence (1990)- Northern Ireland
Anthony Swofford	Jarhead (2003) - Gulf war
	<i>Scottish memoirs</i>
Edwin Muir	Scottish Journey (1935)
George MacKay Brown	An Orkney Tapestry (1969)

Secondary sources

Many of the books listed below have been purchased at the request of previous students. Please do your own research. Requests for books, essays, articles etc can be made to Dr Carter who will attempt to source these for you.

Crime (813.087)

- Benstock, B. (ed) (1983) *Art in crime writing: Essays on detective fiction*. New York:St Martin's Press. (how to put in ed?)
- Cawelti, J. (2004) *Mystery, violence, and popular culture*. Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Messent, P. (1997) *Criminal Proceedings: The contemporary American crime novel*. London: Pluto Press.
- Scaggs, J. (2005) *Crime fiction: the new critical idiom*. Oxon: Routledge.

Secondary sources continued...

Magical Realism (809.915)

Bowers, M.A. (2004) *Magical realism: the new critical idiom*. London: Routledge.

Hart, S.M. and Ouyang, W. (eds) (2005) *A companion to magical realism* Woodbridge: Tamesis

Zamora, L. P. and Faris, W. B. (eds) (1995) *Magical realism theory, history, community*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

General works (809- 809.3)

Boxall, P. (2003) *Twenty-first-century fiction* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Lodge, D, (ed) (1972) *20th Century literary criticism* London: Longman.

Wood, M. (1998) *Children of silence: Studies in contemporary fiction* London: Pimlico

Women writers/ Feminist literature Female characters 809.89

Miller, J. E. (1994) *Rebel women: feminism, modernism and the Edwardian novel* London: Virago

Plimpton, G. (ed) (1999) *Women writers at work* London: Harvill Press

Modern Literature General (820.9)

Padley, Steve (2006) *Key concepts in contemporary literature* Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Modern American Fiction (823)

Bradbury, M. (1992) *The Modern American Novel* 2nd edn Oxford: Oxford University Press

Modern British Fiction (823.9)

Bickley, P. (2008) *Contemporary fiction: The novel since 1990* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Childs, P. (2012) *Contemporary novelists: British fiction since 1970* 2nd edn New York: Palgrave Macmillan

Lane, R. Mengham, R and Tew, P. (2003) *Contemporary British Fiction* Cambridge: Polity Press

Massie, A. (1990) *The novel today : A critical guide to the British novel 1970-1989* Essex: Longman

Rennison, N. (2005) *Contemporary British Novelists* Oxford: Routledge

For criticisms of specific authors and works see 823

Eg Appleton, S (2008) *Once upon a time: Myth, Fairy Tales and Legends in Margaret Atwood's writings* Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing 823 ATW

Interviews/articles on authors 828.920

Robinson, D. (2008) *In cold ink* Edinburgh: Maclean Dubois

Websites

Guardian book pages (a good general resource) <http://www.theguardian.com/books>

British council contemporary writers site <http://literature.britishcouncil.org/writers?char=A>