

**THE NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS**  
**School of Philosophy**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**  
**Division of Literature and Culture**

**MA Programme 2023-2025**

**“Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Anglophone Literature and Culture:  
Representations of Marginality and Exclusion”**

**Fall 2023**

**Research Methodology: Theoretical and Cultural Approaches to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Anglophone Literature**  
(Mina Karavanta)

In this course, students will hone their methodological strategies through a series of seminars that will be conducted by the instructor and the faculty members of the postgraduate program. The aim of this course is the further development and enhancement of the students' research and writing skills that are required for the writing of MA research papers and the MA thesis. The students will complete several short written and oral assignments and a longer research paper.

**Madness in Anglophone Literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries**  
(Angelos Evangelou)

This module introduces students to major English and American literary works of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that explore the theme of madness, with a focus on the representation of the “discourse of madness” and the experience of psychiatric intervention. Through the discussion of key theoretical texts, the students will assess the differences of terms such as “madness”, “unreason”, “psychosis” and “mental illness”, as well as the relation between madness and power, social discrimination, creativity, gender, sexuality, etc.

**Modernism, Marginality and Dissidence**  
(Stamatina Dimakopoulou)

The course examines experiences of marginality in American modernism. Through a focus on marginal and/or dissident figures we will explore works by writers who were or still are in the margins of the American modernist canon. Work by writers like Mina Loy, Djuna Barnes and Claude MacKay, well-established in the modernist canon by now, will be read alongside writers, like Charles Henri Ford and Richard Bruce Nugent who still sit uneasily in modernist contexts and legacies.

**Spring 2024**

**Decolonial Approaches to Contemporary Caribbean Writing: Narratives of Dispossession, Migration and Return**

(Mina Karavanta)

This course intersects contemporary Caribbean poetics and decolonial thought to examine the Caribbean as a paradigmatic site of “trans-modernity” (Enrique Dussel; Walter Dignolo). We will focus on the Caribbean poetics of Édouard Glissant and the theoretical work of Sylvia Wynter and examine their connections with decolonial thinkers like Walter Dignolo, Catherine Walsh, Gayatri Spivak, and Enrique Dussel, among others. The theorization of the decolonial Caribbean poetics of alterity and relation will be further developed through the texts of Erna Brodber, Patrick Chamoiseau, Michelle Cliff, and Maryse Condé, the poetry of M. Nourbese Philip, Dionne Brand, Nancy Morejón and Fahima Ife, and the documentary films and artwork of John Akomfrah and Steve McQueen.

**Space and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century Anglophone Literature**

(Anna Despotopoulou)

Following the spatial and mobility turns in the humanities and the social sciences that have influenced the study of literature, this course will explore the politics of inclusion and exclusion that underpin the representations of space and mobility in texts of and beyond the nineteenth century. How do texts negotiate space and mobility in a period of unprecedented demographic shifts and movements, of expanding transport networks, and of important developments in gender and class relations? How does the study of space and mobility help us read against the grain and challenge Eurocentric and humanistic assumptions about subjectivity and (gender, racial, national) identity? We’ll be thinking about the dissolving boundaries between public and private space, work and leisure, travel and tourism, nation and world, through the study of texts by mostly women authors who in their representation of marginality and exclusion challenge liberalism’s assumptions: Charlotte Brontë, Mary Seacole, Mona Caird, Flora Annie Steel, Krupabai Satthianadhan, and Isabella Bird among others.

**Comics and the Graphic Novel: The Margin, the Gutter, and the Big Picture**

(Christina Dokou)

Heralded as a hybrid art form with a complex and profound affective impact—and not only on youth/pop culture—comics and their literary progeny, graphic novels, have gained academic and theoretical recognition for both their formal properties and their potential to express, and sensitize people on, issues of marginality and divergence. The analysis of selected graphic novels by western Anglophone authors will introduce us to the theory and techniques behind sequential art interpretation, while also showing how graphic auteurs employ those techniques to depict in a familiarizing (though not beautifying) light identities excluded and/or alienated from the societal big picture.