



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 2019-20

Name of the course: Writing and the Environment of War

Lecturer name: Ron Ben-Tovim

Course number:

Office hours: Thursday 12-14 (Room 529).

Course Description

The course will survey the cultural and literary effect of the Great War on the English-speaking war-writing tradition through the concept of war as a *climate* or *environment*. Starting with the work of the so-called "Trench Poets," and ending on the precipice of the Second World War, the course will discuss the ecological system of war, from trench to the home, while investigating the interplay between the shock of violence and the artistic shifts that have come to gain the name of "modernism." Covering poetry and longer prose, the course will also investigate the role of gender and tradition in the undoing of the modern war-writing tradition and in the environment of war.

Key words: War literature, poetics, philosophy and literature, gender studies, environmental studies

Reading List

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927)

David Jones, *In Parenthesis* (1939)

H. D., *Trilogy* (1946)

Course requirements:

Attendance required Yes

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| 1. Three short written responses (each graded) | 20% |
| 2. Midterm assignment | 30% |
| 3. Final Exam | 50% |

31.10 Cold Front: The Environment of War.

7.11 War Poetics: W. B. Yeats, "Introduction," *Oxford Book of Modern Verse*;
Paul Fussell, from *The Great War and Modern Memory*.

14.11 Trench Poets: Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg. Michel
Foucault, "Of Other Spaces.

21.11 *To the Lighthouse*

28.11 *To the Lighthouse*

5.12 *To the Lighthouse*; Tammy Clewell, "Consolation Refused: Virginia Woolf, The
Great War, and Modernist Mourning."

12.12 *To the Lighthouse*

19.12 Colonial Soldiers Writing

26.12 *In Parenthesis*

2.1 *In Parenthesis*; Vincent Sherry, "David Jones' *In Parenthesis*: A New Measure."

9.1 *In Parenthesis*

16.1 *From a Distance*: H.D. - *The Walls Do Not Fall*; Howard Nemerov - "The War in
the Air"; S. H. S. Graham, "'We Have a Secret. We are Alive': H.D.'s *Trilogy* as a
Response to War."

23.1 Conclusion