



**Instructor:** Holly Forsythe Paul

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**Course Number:** ENG210Y5Y

**Course Title:** The Novel

**Course description:** Designed as an introduction to the genre, this course will explore many of the different types of novels, including picaresque adventure stories, science fiction, the hard-boiled detective novel, sensation fiction, a Western, satiric novels, the Bildungsroman, experimental novels, romantic comedy, historical novels, and realistic novels. This multivalent approach is intended to illuminate the shifting nature of the novel and its conventions and to encourage students to think about the continuing debate over the canon.

In order to test some of the evolutionary theories about the history of the novel, we will approach the readings in thematic groupings rather than moving through them chronologically. In each of these segments of the course, we will also focus on a major structural element of fiction. Starting with adventure novels, we will consider the element of setting and the genre's constructions of masculinity. Our examination of motherhood stories will probe narratives about the novel's "birth" and survey some elaborate experimentation with the element of narration. Classic, "dramatic" fiction will provide us

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with the material to consider the importance of social context in the novel and the element of characterisation. In our last quarter of the course, we will follow the emergence of the mystery novel from its traces in a mainstream Bildungsroman to its full development in a detective novel: this highly formulaic subgenre will highlight the fictional element of plot.

**Required Reading:** Daniel Defoe, *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*; Jane Austen, *Emma*; Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus*; George Eliot, *Adam Bede*; Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*; Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*; Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; Henry James, *The Spoils of Poynton*; Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*; Raymond Chandler, *The Big Sleep*; John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*; Cormac McCarthy, *Blood Meridian*.

**First Authors to be Studied:** Defoe, Twain, McCarthy

**Method of Instruction:** lecture/discussion

**Method of Evaluation:** 4 in-class tests (10% each), one 5-7 page paper (20%), one 8-10 page paper (30%); informed participation (10%)