

ALT 417: Major Literary Movements

Unit Description

This unit introduces students to some of the major literary movements of the twentieth century in relation to literatures produced mainly in the English language. Other literary traditions whose works have been translated (for instance: from French into English) on basis of literary merit, will also be studied, the better to appreciate the nature of literary movements. Examples of literary movements are identified from Europe, North America and Africa with the aim of tracing their proponents, agenda, literary contexts of operation as well as contributions to the discipline and practice of Literature. They include among others: Irish Renaissance, Modernism, Harlem Renaissance, Negritude, the Beat Generation, the so-called “Bolekaja school”, and Womanism. Topics of the course will arise out of readings of selected creative works as well as works of literary theory.

Unit Objectives

By the end of the unit the students will:

- ❖ Become familiar with the historical context of each movement studied.
- ❖ become familiar the biographies of authors under study as well as the major themes and literary styles associated with each of the movements under study.
- ❖ Develop their own critical thinking skills further.
- ❖ Reflect upon the spirit which animates writers.
- ❖ Become more sensitive to the universal nature of literature.
- ❖ Become more knowledgeable about human beings through time and space.

References

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