

ENG9WL Writing and Language

Convenor: Dr Stephen Penn

This module will provide students with the technical tools and vocabulary to describe in detail how language choices produce particular effects, meanings and ideologies in literary texts. Alongside this acquisition of skills, the module will encourage reflection on the 'why' of studying the language of literary texts, some of the debates about the role of stylistics in literary studies and attempts to define the 'literariness' of literary language. Whilst the module will be largely focused on stylistic analysis, there will be a commitment to understanding the role of *context* in a literary stylistic approach.



The module will be assessed by two pieces of work which involve a choice or combination of firstly, detailed, but qualitative language analysis of three textual genres (poetry, narrative and drama); and secondly, a creative writing exercise, whereby students will be encouraged to apply the technical knowledge of how language works to their own writing (e.g. a rewriting of a passage from the point of view of a different protagonist, or from first to third person; an alternative ending to a play in the same style; the creation of a poem in a particular local dialect or variety which tackles issues of orthographic representations of accent) and to explain the choices they have made in a written commentary. All of these exercises are premised on the principle that language *choices* have crucial effects in the creation of literature.

Prescribed Texts

A Module Reader (available from the department)

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (London: Faber, 2006) **ISBN-10:** 0571229115

James Joyce, *Dubliners* (London: Penguin Popular Classics, 2007) **ISBN-10:**
0140622179