Reading strategy – worked example 2 (Humanities)

Module title: PFU505 Pigeon fancying in literature

READING STRATEGY (Addressed to validation panels)

Reading expectations:

For this module students are expected to read widely in the literature of pigeons and pigeon-fancying. It is anticipated that around 8 hours a week will be spent in reading these primary texts.

Students are advised to purchase one or two of the literary texts, in order to provide a convenient reading copy and to allow for annotation of the text.

In selecting recommended literature, several relevant stories have been chosen from The Methuen short story reader, which is a required purchase for PFU405. Another group of stories have been selected from classic, out-of-copyright texts, which are available on free online services such as Project Gutenberg or ManyBooks.net.

For critical material, a selection of journal articles and book chapters is provided on Moodle to give an introduction to the critical themes of pigeon-fancying in literature, and to give a broad outline of the various approaches to literary theory.

Students are expected to read all of these extracts, and to select a minimum of 3 to 4 items from an extensive list of readers, guides and glossaries on literary theories (a list of around 30 items). They are advised to focus their attention on at least 2 different literary theories.

The team has begun systematically investing in e-books to support this module, and has identified a range of free web-based sources for inclusion in the list of texts on literary theory.

Currently 45% of items on the list are available for downloading or for reading online.

The default loan period for books on the reading list will be standard loan

Where an item is available online, only a single print copy will be purchased for the Library as a week loan.

The literary theory list is extensive, giving a wide-ranging choice, so only one copy of each will usually be purchased.

To increase current stock to meet this standard would cost around: £160

Anticipated cohort size: 40

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Default loan period</th>
<th>Number of copies</th>
<th>Full Cost of Provision</th>
<th>Cost to fund the difference</th>
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<td>Primary texts</td>
<td>Standard loan</td>
<td>1 copy per 20 students</td>
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<td>Critical texts</td>
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Skills development:

There will be a session on finding journal articles using the Library catalogue and specialist databases in Week 3. This will be delivered by colleagues from the Library.

Communication to students

The reading for the module information will be placed prominently on the Moodle module page in the section on ‘module requirements.’

We will discuss the reading for the module in the first class session in Week 1. Any student who does not attend the session will be individually emailed with a link to the information on Moodle, and invited to ask any follow-up questions.

Extracts from individual texts, together with a short bibliography of relevant critical texts, will be placed on Moodle alongside each literary theory.

In the Library workshop in Week 3, students will take part in an activity to identify journal articles relevant to their chosen assessment topic, and to compile an accurately referenced list of these articles.
READING FOR THE MODULE (Addressed to students)

PFU501 is a literature-heavy module. You will be expected to read widely in the literature of pigeons and pigeon-fancying – you will need to spend around 8 hours each week in reading these primary texts, in addition to reading and reflecting on the critical issues and the literary theories that will shape your final assignment.

Recommended purchase(s)

Although there are no required purchases for this module, you will find it helpful to own your own copies of 1 or 2 of the literary texts, in order to provide a convenient reading copy and to allow you to annotate the text.

Several of the primary texts are out of copyright and are available for download or online reading at, for example:
- Project Gutenberg http://www.gutenberg.org/
- ManyBooks.net http://manybooks.net/

Several of the stories can also be found in *The Methuen short story reader*, which was a required purchase for last year’s PFU405 module.

For those of you on the joint-honours Pigeon Fancying and Business course, who did not take PFU405 last year, I have put a copy of the background notes on short stories from that module on Moodle in the section on general information.

The prices quoted are the recommended retail price (RRP). Cheaper prices may be available through book sellers, second hand copies may also be available through book sellers or the Students’ Union. If purchasing a second hand copy make sure that it is the current edition unless otherwise indicated in the text below.

Recommended reading

The Module’s Moodle page has extracts from a number of books and journals to give an introduction to the critical themes of pigeon-fancying in literature, and to give a broad outline of the various approaches to literary theory. In addition to reading all these extracts you should also select a minimum of 3 to 4 items from the bibliography on literary theories, below. You should focus your attention on at least 2 different literary theories, and consider how you would apply them to the literature of pigeon-fancying.

Skills development:

In Week 3 there will be a workshop on how to find journal articles using the Library catalogue and specialist databases. This is to help you find articles for yourself that will help you in your chosen assessment topic, and help you to compile an accurately referenced list of these articles.

To get the best out of this session you will need to think about which topic you want to focus on before the workshop itself.

Please note:
For items marked with an asterisk (*) an extract is available on the Module’s Moodle page.
For items marked with a dagger (†) a copy is available as an e-book which can be read directly from the Library catalogue.

**Primary texts**

**English fiction**


**International fiction**


**Children’s fiction**


**Genre fiction**


**Criticism**


You can identify additional journal articles by searching on the Library catalogue, where you will find articles from relevant databases, such as:

- ProjectMUSE
- JSTOR
- Humanities International Complete

**Literary theories**


Note: The 2008 anniversary edition includes a new preface by Eagleton to address more recent developments in literary studies, but is otherwise unchanged from the 1996 edition. The 1st edition (1983) is still useful to read.


Laga, Barry (no date) *Critical Theory: an introduction to literary theory and criticism*. Available at [http://mesastate.edu/~blaga/theoryindex/theoryhomex.html](http://mesastate.edu/~blaga/theoryindex/theoryhomex.html)


Siegal, Kristi (no date) *Introduction to Modern Literary Theory*. Available at [http://www.kristisiegel.com/theory.htm](http://www.kristisiegel.com/theory.htm) Note: these are short summaries on the whole but include useful further reading.


