

*Title and Code of Course:* Reading *Possession* by A.S. Byatt (Literary Cultural Workshop)  
ERPB- BAN 3391

*Instructor's Email Address:* ruttkay.veronika@kre.hu

Credit Point Value: <b>6</b>	Number of Lessons per Week: <b>2</b>	Type of Course: <b>Seminar</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: <b>Oral Examination</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>In-Class Presentation</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Course Description:**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to modern British fiction through the close reading of A. S. Byatt's *Possession: A Romance* (1990). The core of the course will be provided by a(n almost) chapter-by-chapter analysis of the novel, together with relevant works from the Romantic and Victorian periods. This will be complemented by the discussion of key narratological concepts, issues of genre and gender, different forms of intertextuality, the concepts of historiographic metafiction and neo-Victorian fiction. By the end of the course, students will have become familiar with the work of a major contemporary author, improved their interpretive skills and critical thinking, and learnt about relevant theoretical frameworks to tackle various issues in modern fiction.

**Bibliography:**

A. S. Byatt: *Possession: A Romance*  
A. S. Byatt: *On Histories and Stories*  
from Gérard Genette: *Paratexts: Thresholds of Interpretation*  
Northrop Frye: 'The Mythos of Summer: Romance', from *The Anatomy of Criticism*  
Sigmund Freud: 'The Theme of the Three Caskets'  
Roland Barthes: 'The Death of the Author'  
from Elaine Showalter: *A Literature of their Own*  
Hayden White: 'The Burden of History'  
Linda Hutcheon: 'Historiographic Metafiction', from *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*  
Jonathan Culler: 'Omniscience'  
Poems by Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, S. T. Coleridge, John Keats