O‘ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI TA’LIM VA ILM-FAN VAZIRLIGI

GULISTON DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI

FILOLOGIYA FAKULTETI

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Tili o‘rganilayotgan m amlakatlar adabiyoti fanidan o‘quv kontenti

DANIEL DEFOE: BIOGRAPHY AND LITERARY WORKS

60230100 - Filologiya va tillarni o‘qitish (ingliz tili)

Guliston — 2026

ANNOTATSIYA

Mazkur o‘quv mashg‘uloti kontenti 60230100 - Filologiya va tillarni o‘qitish ((ingliz tili) ta’lim yo‘nalishi talabalari uchun mo‘ljallangan bo‘lib, Mazkur o‘quv mashg‘uloti kontenti ingliz adabiyotining klassik vakili, realizm yo‘nalishining asoschilaridan biri bo‘lgan Daniel Defoe (1660–1731) ijodini tizimli tadqiq etishga bag‘ishlangan. Mashg‘ulot doirasida yozuvchining hayot yo‘li, uning ijtimoiy-siyosiy muhit bilan o‘zaro aloqadorligi va uning shaxsiy tajribasining badiiy matn shakllanishidagi deterministik roli tahlil qilinadi.

O‘quv materiallari Defoe ijodining fundamental jihatlari: uning jurnalistik mahorati, avtobiografik elementlarning badiiy asarlarga integratsiyasi hamda realistik tasvir uslubining rivojlanishi kabi masalalarni qamrab oladi. Alohida e’tibor uning magnum opuslari — “*Robinson Crusoe”* va “*Moll Flanders”* kabi asarlarida inson irodasi, kapitalistik munosabatlar va individualizm motivlarining falsafiy-adabiy talqini tahliliga qaratilgan. Mashg'ulot talabalarga ingliz klassik realizmini tahlil qilishda tarixiy-biografik metodologiyani qo‘llash va asarlarning mavzuviy-kompozitsion tuzilishini filologik nuqtayi nazardan izchil o‘rganish ko‘nikmalarini shakllantirishga xizmat qiladi.

Tuzuvchi: Dushayeva Soxiba Janikulovna. Ushbu yangilangan tahrir muallif nomi saqlangan holda, kafedrada ko‘rib chiqish uchun tayyorlangan loyiha hisoblanadi.

Mas’ul muharrir

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SEMINAR LESSON PLAN AND LECTURE NOTES

THEME:

DANIEL DEFOE: BIOGRAPHY AND LITERARY WORKS

with Interesting Facts, Discussion Questions and Quizzes

Course	English Literature of the 17th–18th Centuries (History of World Literature)
Type of session	Seminar with lecture elements
Duration	80 minutes (2 academic hours)
Audience	Undergraduate students, Philology, years 2–3
Instructor	Khamdamova N.F
Date	_26_ /10 / 2026

1. Lesson Passport

Topic	Daniel Defoe: Life and Literary Legacy. Robinson Crusoe and the Rise of the English Realist Novel
Aim	To give students systematic academic knowledge of Defoe's biography, creative path and principal works, and to develop their ability to assess his place in the history of the English novel.
Educational objectives	• Place the stages of Defoe's life in the historical context of the 17th–18th centuries; • Classify his journalistic, fictional and documentary writings; • Analyse the poetics, themes and problems of Robinson Crusoe; • Distinguish documented facts from popular myths about the author.
Developmental objectives	To develop critical thinking, comparative analysis, source evaluation and skills of academic discussion.
Upbringing objectives	To foster understanding of labour, independence, enterprise and moral testing through literary text; to encourage a critical approach to colonial discourse.
Learning outcomes	**Knowledge:** names key dates, works and genres associated with Defoe. **Skills:** analyses core motifs of Robinson Crusoe and explains the notion of "formal realism". **Competence:** evaluates Defoe's contribution to the development of the novel and supports opinions with evidence.
Methods	Lecture, brainstorming, cluster, "Fact or Myth?" game, small-group work, quiz, peer assessment.
Equipment	Projector and slides, portrait of Defoe, map of 18th-century London, handouts (quiz and task sheets).
Key terms	Dissenters, formal realism, spiritual autobiography, circumstantial detail, homo economicus, robinsonade, pillory, editor's fiction, persona

2. Timetable of the Session (80 minutes)

No.	Stage	Time	Content of activity

No.	Stage	Time	Content of activity
1	Organisation	3 min	Greeting, attendance, announcing the topic, aims and assessment criteria.
2	Warm-up (brainstorming)	5 min	Activating prior knowledge; building a cluster around “Robinson Crusoe”.
3	Lecture I: Biography	18 min	Historical context, family and education, trade, politics and journalism, final years.
4	Lecture II: Literary works	20 min	Journalism, Robinson Crusoe, other novels, non-fiction, poetics.
5	“Fact or Myth?” game	6 min	Interesting facts about Defoe; students vote, then the lecturer reveals the truth.
6	Group work and discussion	10 min	4 groups, 4 analytical tasks: preparation (4 min), presentations (6 min).
7	Quiz	12 min	10 multiple-choice, 5 true/false, 5 matching; peer marking.
8	Wrap-up	6 min	Conclusions, reflection, grades, homework.

3. Stages of the Session

3.1. Organisation and Warm-up (8 minutes)

The instructor announces the topic and asks the following quick questions (30–40 seconds each, oral answers):

1. Who has read Robinson Crusoe? Which episode do you remember best?
2. Why is this book sometimes called “the first English novel”?
3. Which social conditions might have encouraged the birth of the novel as a genre?
4. How far should an author’s life be used to explain his books?

Cluster task. Write “ROBINSON CRUSOE” in the centre of the board. Students add associated words (island, solitude, Friday, work, God, shipwreck, etc.). The cluster is revisited at the end of the session.

3.2. Lecture I. The Biography of Daniel Defoe (18 minutes)

1. Historical context (3 minutes)

Daniel Defoe was born in London around 1660 (the exact date is unknown; scholars usually place it between 1659 and 1661). His lifetime was a period of dramatic change in English history. In 1660 the Stuart monarchy was restored; in 1665 London suffered the Great Plague and in 1666 the Great Fire; the Glorious Revolution of 1688–1689 strengthened Parliament; and in 1707 England and Scotland were united by the Act of Union.

These developments strengthened a new social class: merchants, entrepreneurs and the literate urban population. This class became the main readership of Defoe’s writings and formed the social basis of the eighteenth-century English novel.

2. Family and education (4 minutes)

The writer was born Daniel Foe; he began using the aristocratic-sounding form “De Foe” in the mid-1690s. His father, James Foe, was a London tallow chandler (a maker and seller of candles and tallow products). The family belonged to the **Dissenters**, Protestants (in this case Presbyterians) who had separated from the Church of England. After the Restoration, Dissenters faced legal restrictions: they could not hold public office and were barred from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

For this reason Defoe was educated at the Dissenting academy at Newington Green run by Charles Morton. Alongside classical languages, the curriculum included

geography, history, mathematics, politics and modern languages, so the education was practical and broad. Defoe was originally intended for the ministry but chose trade instead. Religious conviction, moral responsibility and spiritual trial became central motifs of his fiction.

3. Business career and financial crises (3 minutes)

As a young man Defoe traded in hosiery, wine, tobacco and other goods and travelled widely. In 1684 he married Mary Tuffley. In 1685 he took part in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, which was crushed, though Defoe escaped punishment. In 1692 he went bankrupt with very large debts; later he ran a brick and tile works at Tilbury, but he struggled with debt for the rest of his life.

This commercial experience shaped his literary style: accounts, lists, inventories and calculations of profit and loss became artistic devices. Crusoe's "balance sheet" of good and evil, laid out in debit and credit columns, is a famous example.

4. Journalism and politics (5 minutes)

From the 1690s Defoe wrote political pamphlets as a supporter of King William III. His An Essay upon Projects (1697) proposed progressive ideas such as banking, insurance, better roads and an academy for women.

In 1701 he published the satirical poem The True-Born Englishman, a reply to xenophobic attacks on the king's Dutch origins. It mocks the idea of "pure" English blood by showing that the English are a mixture of many peoples, and it made him famous.

In 1702 came The Shortest-Way with the Dissenters. Defoe imitated the voice of High Church extremists and proposed, in all seriousness of tone, that Dissenters be destroyed. This **irony** was at first taken literally and then enraged both sides. In 1703 Defoe was prosecuted, fined, sentenced to stand in the **pillory** (a public punishment in which the offender was locked in a wooden frame) and imprisoned in Newgate. According to tradition, the crowd showered him with flowers rather than rotten missiles; he wrote A Hymn to the Pillory.

The politician Robert Harley helped to secure his release, and Defoe then served him as a propagandist and secret agent. From 1704 to 1713 he wrote and published The Review almost single-handedly, a periodical regarded as an early model of modern journalism. He worked in Scotland to promote the 1707 Union and later wrote a History of the Union (1709). His willingness to write for different political groups (Whigs and Tories) remains a subject of scholarly debate.

5. Later years and death (2 minutes)

At about the age of 59 Defoe published Robinson Crusoe (1719) and began a new phase of his career; between 1719 and 1724 he produced his major novels. Late in life he again faced financial trouble and lived in hiding from creditors. He died on 24 April 1731 in London and was buried in Bunhill Fields; a monument was erected over his grave in 1870. Around 500 titles have been attributed to him, though the authorship of many remains disputed.

6. Summary (1 minute)

Defoe was merchant, pamphleteer, political agent, journalist and novelist. Dissenting culture, business experience and political struggle formed his literary outlook; Robinson Crusoe opened a new era in the history of the novel.

3.3. Lecture II. Defoe's Literary Legacy (20 minutes)

1. Journalism and early writings (3 minutes)

Defoe's writing began with verse satire and political journalism: An Essay upon Projects (1697), The True-Born Englishman (1701), The Shortest-Way (1702) and The Review (1704–1713). Three features stand out: plain, accessible language; forceful rhetoric; and the use of irony and assumed voices (persona). The habit of speaking in another person's voice later prepared the ground for the first-person narration of his novels.

2. Robinson Crusoe (1719) (8 minutes)

Publication and sources. The novel was published on 25 April 1719 as The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner. It was reprinted several times within months. Important sources include the story of the Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk, who lived alone on the island of Más a Tierra from 1704 to 1709, as well as travel narratives and accounts of shipwrecks. Some scholars also note typological similarities with Ibn Tufayl's Hayy ibn Yaqzan. The sequels were The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe (1719) and Serious Reflections (1720).

Plot and composition. Robinson Crusoe, from York, goes to sea against his parents' wishes. Adventures at sea, captivity, a plantation in Brazil and finally a shipwreck follow. As the sole survivor, Crusoe lives for more than twenty-eight years on a desert island: he builds a shelter, farms, keeps a journal, turns to God, rescues a man whom he names Friday and makes him his servant, and eventually returns to England.

Main themes and lines of analysis:

- **Spiritual autobiography.** Crusoe sees his disobedience to his father as a kind of "original sin"; illness, Bible reading and repentance reflect the Puritan pattern of spiritual progress.
- **Economic individualism.** Crusoe is a model of homo economicus who subdues nature through labour, calculation and planning. Ian Watt's The Rise of the Novel (1957) reads him as a symbol of the new middle-class individualism.
- **Colonial discourse.** The figure of Friday, and the episodes of naming him and teaching him language, are studied in postcolonial criticism as expressions of European centrality; J. M. Coetzee's novel Foe (1986) reworks the story from this perspective.
- **Providence and chance.** The hero interprets events as signs of God's will, which is visible in his inner monologues.
- **Labour and civilisation.** The island works as a miniature society; the hero gradually re-creates "culture".

Poetics. The novel is narrated in the first person and presented as found memoirs (editor's fiction): in the preface an "editor" insists that the account is true. Defoe creates an impression of authenticity through precise detail (circumstantial detail), journal form, and exact dates and quantities. Watt calls this **"formal realism"**. The book's influence was enormous: Rousseau recommended it in Émile, and an entire tradition of "robinsonades" followed (for example, The Swiss Family Robinson, 1812).

3. Other novels (6 minutes)

Work	Year	Brief description
Captain Singleton	1720	Adventures of a pirate; an overland journey across Africa and sea piracy.
Memoirs of a Cavalier	1720	A fictional memoir set during the English Civil War and the Thirty Years' War.
Moll Flanders	1722	The life of a woman who moves from poverty through luck and crime to wealth and repentance; a study of social and economic conditions.
A Journal of the Plague Year	1722	The journal of a narrator signing as "H. F." about the London plague of 1665; fiction in

Work	Year	Brief description
		documentary form.
Colonel Jack	1722	A street thief who becomes a wealthy planter.
Roxana	1724	A woman of high society who lives as a courtesan; a moral and psychological crisis; often regarded as Defoe's darkest novel.

Defoe's female protagonists (Moll Flanders, Roxana) are among the earliest realistic portrayals of women's fates shaped by inequality, property and money. In A Journal of the Plague Year, Defoe was only about five years old when the events took place, yet through documents, statistics and witness accounts he achieves a very strong effect of authenticity.

4. Non-fiction and didactic works (2 minutes)

Defoe's non-fiction is also substantial: A Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain (1724–1727) is an economic and geographical portrait of the country and a valuable historical source; The Complete English Tradesman (1726) is a moral and practical guide for businessmen; The Family Instructor (1715) is didactic; The Political History of the Devil (1726) is religious and educational. The authorship of A General History of the Pyrates (1724) is attributed to Defoe by some scholars, but the attribution is still debated.

5. The distinctive poetics of Defoe (1 minute)

- Plain, conversational language and precise detail.
- First-person narration and an illusion of documentary truth.
- Ordinary people as protagonists, with their economic and moral choices.
- Moral duality: movement between sin and repentance.
- Limits: critics point to a relative lack of psychological depth; yet writers such as Virginia Woolf praised his plain, vital power.

Conclusion. Defoe is recognised as a decisive contributor to the formation of the novel in English; his works are a literary expression of realism, individualism and economic thinking.

3.4. Interesting Facts about Daniel Defoe (6 minutes: “Fact or Myth?”)

The lecturer reads each statement; students raise a green card (Fact) or a red card (Myth). Answers and explanations are then revealed. Below, all statements are listed with the truth.

No.	Statement	Verdict	Explanation
1	Defoe’s real surname was “Foe”; he added “De” himself.	Fact	He began using “De Foe” in the 1690s, possibly to sound more distinguished.
2	Robinson Crusoe was first published with Defoe’s name on the title page.	Myth	The first edition presented Crusoe himself as the author (“Written by Himself”); Defoe’s name did not appear.
3	Defoe once stood in the pillory and the crowd cheered him.	Fact	In July 1703 he was pilloried for his satire; tradition says crowds threw flowers and drank to his health.
4	Defoe lived on a desert island for several years.	Myth	He never did; the novel drew on sailors’ accounts, especially Alexander Selkirk’s.
5	A real island is now named after Robinson Crusoe.	Fact	In 1966 Chile renamed Más a Tierra “Robinson Crusoe Island”; another island in the group became “Alejandro Selkirk Island”.
6	Defoe worked as a secret agent for the government.	Fact	He served Robert Harley and later others as propagandist and intelligence agent, sometimes using false names.
7	He wrote a newspaper, The Review, almost entirely by himself.	Fact	From 1704 to 1713 he produced it for years with little help, several times a week.
8	Defoe never went bankrupt.	Myth	He went bankrupt in 1692 and struggled with debts for the rest of his life.
9	Defoe’s ghost story helped sell an unpopular religious book.	Fact	A True Relation of the Apparition of One Mrs. Veal (1706) is believed to have boosted sales of a book on

No.	Statement	Verdict	Explanation
			death by Charles Drelincourt.
10	The phrase “Man Friday” (or “Girl Friday”) comes from Defoe’s novel.	Fact	It originates from Crusoe’s servant Friday and now means a devoted assistant.
11	Defoe proposed an academy for women in the 1690s.	Fact	In An Essay upon Projects he argued that women should be educated as men are.
12	A Journal of the Plague Year was written by an eyewitness of the 1665 plague.	Myth	Defoe was about five in 1665; the book is fiction built on documents and recollections.

More curiosities for the lecturer

- Defoe’s hero lives on the island for 28 years, 2 months and 19 days, according to the novel’s own count.
- Robinson Crusoe was a bestseller at once: it was reprinted several times in its first months, and pirated and abridged versions soon appeared.
- Selkirk spent about four years and four months alone on his island before being rescued in 1709.
- Around 500 works are attributed to Defoe, which makes the question “Did he really write this?” a permanent scholarly industry.
- Defoe died while hiding from creditors in Ropemaker’s Alley in London. His gravestone was replaced by a monument in 1870, paid for through a public appeal.
- Rousseau considered Robinson Crusoe the only book fit for the education of the young Émile.

3.5. Small-group Work and Discussion (10 minutes)

Students form 4 groups. Each discusses its task for 4 minutes and then presents for 1.5 minutes.

Group	Task	Guiding questions
Group 1 “Puritans”	Read Robinson Crusoe as spiritual autobiography.	What is Crusoe’s “original sin”? How is the repentance episode expressed? How does the idea of Providence work?

Group	Task	Guiding questions
Group 2 “Entrepreneurs”	Analyse Crusoe as a figure of economic individualism.	What is the meaning of the debit/credit table? How are labour and property presented?
Group 3 “Postcolonial readers”	Assess the figure of Friday and his relationship with Crusoe.	What do naming, language teaching and servitude imply? How does this look to a present-day reader?
Group 4 “Realists”	Identify Defoe’s techniques of “formal realism”.	Which details create an impression of truth? Compare with Moll Flanders or A Journal of the Plague Year.

Debate thesis for the whole class: “Robinson Crusoe is not merely a sea adventure but the ideological self-portrait of a new age.” Students take a position (Agree / Disagree) and support it with evidence.

3.6. Quiz (12 minutes)

The tasks are distributed as handouts. Students work for 8 minutes, followed by 4 minutes of peer marking. The answer key is in Section 5.

Part A. Multiple choice (10 points)

1. In which city was Daniel Defoe born?
A) Edinburgh B) London C) York D) Bristol

2. To which religious group did Defoe's family belong?
A) Catholics B) Anglicans C) Dissenters (Presbyterians) D) Quakers

3. Which work led to Defoe's sentence to the pillory in 1703?
A) The True-Born Englishman B) The Shortest-Way with the Dissenters C) An Essay upon Projects D) Roxana

4. In which year was Robinson Crusoe published?
A) 1688 B) 1707 C) 1719 D) 1731

5. Which real sailor is considered one of the prototypes of Crusoe?
A) Alexander Selkirk B) Charles Morton C) Robert Harley D) William III

6. What is the name of Crusoe's servant?
A) Friday B) Singleton C) Jack D) Flanders

7. A Journal of the Plague Year describes events of which year?
A) 1588 B) 1642 C) 1665 D) 1707

8. Which periodical did Defoe produce almost alone from 1704 to 1713?
A) The Spectator B) The Tatler C) The Review D) The Times

9. Who introduced the term "formal realism" in The Rise of the Novel?
A) Ian Watt B) F. R. Leavis C) Virginia Woolf D) Northrop Frye

10. In which year did Defoe die?
A) 1719 B) 1724 C) 1731 D) 1745

Part B. True or False (5 points)

1. Defoe studied at Oxford University. _____

2. Robinson Crusoe came from York. _____

3. Moll Flanders was published in 1722. _____

4. Defoe was never imprisoned. _____

5. Robinson Crusoe is told in the third person. _____

Part C. Matching (5 points)

Work	Letter	Year
1. An Essay upon Projects		A) 1724

Work	Letter	Year
2. The True-Born Englishman		B) 1722
3. The Review (first issue)		C) 1697
4. Moll Flanders		D) 1701
5. Roxana		E) 1704

Bonus (2 points)

1. Name the island in the Pacific that was renamed after Crusoe in 1966, and the real man who inspired the story.

3.7. Wrap-up (6 minutes)

- Return to the cluster: students add new concepts (2 min).
- Reflection: “What did I learn today? What surprised me? What do I still need to clarify?” (2 min).
- Announce grades and homework (2 min).

4. Seminar Questions (by Bloom's Taxonomy)

No.	Level	Question
1	Remember	List the main stages of Daniel Defoe's life. Which years were turning points?
2	Remember	Which of Defoe's works are journalistic, which fictional and which documentary?
3	Understand	Explain the term "Dissenter". How did Dissent affect Defoe's education and outlook?
4	Understand	How does irony work in The Shortest-Way with the Dissenters? Why was it misunderstood?
5	Apply	Show three examples of "formal realism" from Robinson Crusoe.
6	Apply	Explain with examples how Defoe's business experience influenced the style of his novels.
7	Analyse	What is the relationship between the spiritual and the economic motifs in Robinson Crusoe?
8	Analyse	Compare Moll Flanders and Roxana: how do their social positions and moral choices differ?
9	Evaluate	Do you agree with Watt's reading of Crusoe as an embodiment of middle-class individualism? Give evidence.
10	Evaluate	How can Robinson Crusoe be read from a postcolonial viewpoint today? How should Friday be interpreted?
11	Create	Propose a short plot (5–6 sentences) for a modern robinsonade.
12	Create	Draft the outline of a five-minute academic presentation on Defoe's life and work.

5. Answer Key

Part A: 1–B; 2–C; 3–B; 4–C; 5–A; 6–A; 7–C; 8–C; 9–A; 10–C.

Part B: 1 – False (Dissenters were barred from Oxford and Cambridge; Defoe studied at a Dissenting academy); 2 – True; 3 – True; 4 – False (he was held in Newgate in 1703); 5 – False (first person).

Part C: 1–C; 2–D; 3–E; 4–B; 5–A.

Bonus: Robinson Crusoe Island (formerly Más a Tierra) and Alexander Selkirk.

6. Assessment Criteria (100 points)

Type of activity	Points	Criteria
Warm-up and seminar participation	20	Correct, well-supported answers; participation in discussion.
Group work and presentation	30	Content of task, evidence, work with the text, quality of presentation.
Quiz (Parts A, B, C)	20	A – 10, B – 5, C – 5 points.
Written answer to seminar questions (choose 1–2)	20	Depth of analysis, academic style, reference to sources.
Reflection and discipline	10	Timely completion, cooperation, self-assessment.

Grading scale: 86–100 – excellent; 71–85 – good; 55–70 – satisfactory; below 55 – unsatisfactory.

7. Homework

1. Read chapters 1–2 of Robinson Crusoe and analyse the “good and evil” balance-sheet episode (one page).
2. Choose one passage from Moll Flanders or A Journal of the Plague Year and identify features of “formal realism” (one page).
3. Optional: prepare a 5–7 slide presentation on Defoe, including three interesting facts with verified sources.

8. Glossary

Term	Definition
Dissenters	Protestant groups (Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers, etc.) that did not conform to the Church of England.
Pillory	A punishment in which an offender is locked in a wooden frame in a public place.
Formal realism	Ian Watt’s term: creating an impression of real life in the novel through specific time, place, names and detail.
Circumstantial detail	Precise, minor details that lend a narrative the appearance of truth.

Term	Definition
Editor's fiction	A device in which the author poses as the editor of a found manuscript or memoir.
Spiritual autobiography	A Puritan genre describing a spiritual journey through sin, repentance and salvation.
Homo economicus	A model of the human being as acting on the basis of economic interest and calculation.
Robinsonade	A work inspired by Robinson Crusoe in which a character survives alone or in a small group on an island.
Persona	A literary device in which the author speaks in the voice of another person.

9. References

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8. Defoe, D. Moll Flanders; A Journal of the Plague Year. Penguin Classics (various editions).

Note: *Dates and publication details should be checked against the editions recommended by the department before teaching. Popular anecdotes (such as the flowers at the pillory) are traditions of uncertain documentation and are best presented as such.*