

English 290: The Academic Satire

Instructor: Tim Chamberlain
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Office Hours: Wed/Fri - 10-11:20 Thurs - 12-1:00
Texts: Lucky Jim, Kingsley Amis
 Nice Work, David Lodge
 Blue Angel: A Novel, Francine Prose
 Publish and Perish, James Hynes

Course Objectives: In English 290 you will read three novels and three novellas (by Hynes). All these works include elements of satire and parody: they will amuse, provoke and, perhaps, annoy you at times. By examining the "hot button" issues that form the basis of this genre (the academic satire), we will see whether colleges and universities reflect or create the concerns of the greater society beyond the ivory tower. Some historical/sociological/political analysis will be necessary for a thorough understanding of these works (don't worry - this will be covered in class). As well, we will briefly examine critical literary theory (very briefly) within the context of these works.

Readings:

Weeks 1, 2, 3 Lucky Jim plus film viewing, if possible.

Weeks 4, 5, 6 Changing Places

Weeks 7,8,9 Blue Angel: A Novel

Weeks 10, 11, 12, 13: Publish and Perish

Week 14: Consultations for final essay/Review of progress to date

All assignments (see below) must be completed as a requirement for the course (due dates to be announced in class, and descriptive assignment sheets will be distributed). All work will be collect at the beginning of class on the due date: late papers accepted ONLY with a doctor's note.

Evaluation	Assignment	Value	Date
Essay #1	<u>Lucky Jim</u> 1000 words	25%	tba
Essay #2	<u>Nice Work</u> 100 words	25%	tba
Essay #3	<u>Blue Angel</u> - 1000 words	25%	tba
Essay #4	<u>Publish and Perish</u> - 1000 words (Your choice, upon approval)	25%	tba

Essay topics:

- #1 What, exactly, is the nature of Jim Dixon's struggle in Lucky Jim (ie. what, exactly, is he fighting against?)
- #2 Nice Work, by David Lodge, juxtaposes the worlds of British academia and British industry. Are these worlds at all similar? Discuss.
- #3 Blue Angel is not really a satire, but a realistic depiction of an American university in the 1990s. Discuss.
- #4 Design an essay topic for Publish and Perish and "run" with it (but run it past me, before you start). Your topic may encompass each of the novellas, or just one of them. I will give suggestions, in class, to get you started ahead of time.