

English 286-01 Winter 2005
Instructor: Dr. Candace Fertile
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Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 and T TH 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

Description:

Through the study of major authors, this course will investigate important trends in English literature in the 20th century. While the primary focus will be British literature, following on from English 280 and 282, works from other nationalities may be discussed along with an examination of the increased internationalization of literary movements. Readings may be presented historically or by theme. Critical essays and a final exam will be required. Finished assignments will total approximately 5000 words and will range in length from 500 to 2500 words. Prerequisite: English 160 or 164.

Texts:

The Longman Anthology of British Literature volume 2C—The Twentieth Century,
second edition
Zadie Smith *White Teeth*

Assignments:

20% essay (1000-1200 words; due February 3)
20% essay (1000-1200 words; due March 8)
20% essay on the novel (1000-1200 words; due April 14)
40% final examination (during examination period in April)

Notes:

1. Students are expected to read the material, attend class, and participate in discussions. Essays must be handed in on time (at the beginning of the class on the due date).
2. Students must follow the MLA system for in-text citations. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. At the very least, plagiarized papers will be given a zero. Any ideas or words borrowed from someone else must be attributed. Ask if in doubt.
3. Students must keep a folder of all rough work (no matter how messy) used in the preparation of the essays. If asked, a student must produce this folder or the essay will be given a grade of zero. Keep a copy of your work. Keep your marked essays.
4. The class will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, small group discussion and presentation, and occasional in-class writing.

Evaluation Guide:

A+ 95-100; A 90-94; A- 85-89; B+ 80-84; B 75-79; B- 70-74; C+ 65-69; C 60-64; D 50-59;
F 0-49

Schedule (subject to change)

January 11 Introduction

January 13 Orwell "Politics and the English Language" 2738
 "Shooting an Elephant" 2747

January 18-20 *Heart of Darkness* 2020

January 25-27 Sassoon 2186; Owen 2188

February 1 Yeats "Wild Swans at Coole" 2248; "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death"
 2249; "Easter 1916" 2249; "Leda and the Swan" 2262

February 3-8 Joyce "Araby" 2274; "Eveline" 2277; "Clay" 2280; "The Dead" 2284

FEBRUARY 3: ESSAY DUE

February 10 No class

February 15-17 Eliot "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" 2344; "The
 Wasteland" 2356; "The Journey of the Magi" 2369

February 22-March 1 *Mrs Dalloway*

March 3-8 Lawrence "Piano" 2640; "Snake" 2643; "The Horse Dealer's
 Daughter" 2660

MARCH 8: ESSAY DUE

March 10 Auden "Musee des Beaux Arts" 2789; "In Memory of W.B. Yeats" 2790; "In
 Praise of Limestone" 2797

March 15 Smith "Not Waving But Drowning" 2800; "Pretty" 2800; Larkin "Church
 Going" 2805

March 17 Gunn 2819

March 22-24 Churchill *Cloud Nine* 2839

March 29 Heaney 2890; Gordimer "What Were You Dreaming?" 2917

March 31-April 12 Smith *White Teeth* (separate novel, not in anthology)

April 14 Review

APRIL 14: ESSAY DUE

Essays:

In all cases, your essay will be more effective if you choose something of interest. The essay should be the culmination of your thought on the particular topic. Your essay reflects part of you. And you choose how you are being reflected. If you respect your work, it's more likely the reader will also. The point of view of your essay is personal in that it's an individual argument, in a balanced tone, backed up with evidence, made by one person. Do not use "you" or "one"; "I" is permitted, but generally unnecessary. Remember that I know the essay is what you think. Think of the class as your audience: reasonable, intelligent, interested readers who are not experts in the subject. Topics for essays will be handed out well in advance of the due date, and choice is always available.

Assignments:

Essays must be handed in on time, and they must be properly formatted. Use the MLA system of in-text citations with a Works Cited list at the end of the essay. If you use secondary material (the piece of literature is the primary source), you must examine more than one critical work. It is not necessary to use secondary critical sources for the first paper. In all the essays you should think of yourself as the critic—a person who is creating an argument about works of literature using the best evidence possible—the literature itself. It is crucial to be clear and concise. In effect you are teaching the reader, so communicate as effectively as you can. Also keep in mind that a single correct interpretation is unlikely. I expect a reasonable argument backed up with evidence (quotations) from the literature. Any essay lacking quotations (excluding the examination) will automatically fail. You should also be selective in your choice of thesis: it should be of a level of complexity that can be handled in the assigned length. Making a few points in depth is preferable to a making many superficial comments. Try to stick to the word length, and put the word count at the end of your essay. The bulk of the essay should be comprised of your words, not quotations. Use standard manuscript format: leave one inch margins on all sides, double-space, use a title page, use an ordinary 12 point font, do not use headers with your name on each page, number the pages in the upper right hand corner, and staple the pages together in the upper left hand corner. No folders or covers, please.

English 286 Outcomes:

When reading 20th century literature, students will be encouraged to make connections, evaluate works based on established critical criteria, and recognize both the general characteristics of a literary movement and the characteristics of an author's style within the context of the period. Works will include major authors such as W.B. Yeats, W.H. Auden, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot, and representative selections of more contemporary poets, such as Philip Larkin, Thom Gunn, or Stevie Smith, and late 20th century prose stylists. Note that individual instructors may put a slight change of focus in this course by choosing one author over another, but the general tenor of the course will remain the same.

Students will:

- Analyze literature from 1900 to the turn of the millennium according to established critical criteria.
- Evaluate a variety of genres, which will include short stories and other prose forms such as essays and journals, poetry, drama and at least one novel, according to critical precepts appropriate to the genre presented.
- Compare works from all aspects of society, including a representative balance of genders, national, cultural and social backgrounds, and sexual orientations, within the context of developments in 20th century literature.

When discussing 20th century literature, students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations to the works using a variety of critical methods and resources. Students will:

- Identify the socio-historical context of the works and relate the works to others as part of a literary continuum.
- Identify and account for recurring themes in the context of 20th century literature.
- Compare and contrast various works, authors and styles within the broad movements of 20th century literature.
- Distinguish between the subjective and objective aspects of works in order to formulate informed judgments about the works being discussed.
- Identify the influence of dominant critical theories or movements such as feminism or post-structuralism in both the production and interpretation of 20th century literature.

When writing about 20th century literature, students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the above issues and to explain, support and illustrate their interpretations of literature in essays and a final exam. Students will:

- Support their positions with relevant textual evidence.
- Document sources using current MLA conventions.