

ENGLISH 286: 20th Century Literature

Winter 2008

Section 001: MW, 18:00-20:50

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OFFICE HOURS: M, 1-2; W, 10-11:30; T, 5-6.

Literature is the expression of a feeling of deprivation, a recourse against a sense of something missing. But the contrary is also true: language is what makes us human. It is a recourse against the meaningless noise and silence of nature and history.

– Octavio Paz

COURSE DESCRIPTION

By studying major authors, primarily British, students investigate trends in 20th century literature. The increased internationalization of literary movements is also examined. Readings are presented historically or by theme. The course examines modern poetry, prose, drama, and fiction as represented by both major and minor authors of the period. Individual assignments range from 500 to 2,500 words in length (course total of approximately 5,000 words).

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Broadview Anthology of British Literature

A Portrait of the Artist as A Young Man

A Bend in the River

EVALUATION SCHEME

A+ = 90-100%

A = 85-89

A- = 80-84

B+ = 77-79

B = 73-76

B- = 70-72%

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59%

F = Below 50%

IN = Incomplete

EVALUATION & ASSIGNMENTS

1. Exercises: 20% (2 x 10%)

The exercises are designed to encourage you to respond to class discussion of readings and to demonstrate your understanding. These exercises are not marked for spelling or grammar but for content only.

2. Essay: 30%

Peer Edit (on week before the end of term) 5%.

You'll write one paper of 5-8 double spaced pages in which you'll discuss a theme that you see running through any three texts we've read. For example, you could choose relations between the sexes, conflict between parents and children, the purpose of literature, or class differences. Bring a draft of your whole essay to class for peer feedback one week before it is due.

3. Presentation: 25%

You will work with a group of one or two other students to present material on a particular writer and text. Groups will be formed early in the semester.

Before your particular class presentation, your group will be assigned text(s) the class will read for your presentation. Each group will give the class a journal assignment after the presentation.

Your group will have no more than 30 minutes to do the following:

· Give us a handout with information about your author and his/her texts.

Your handout should include:

- biographical information
- bibliographical information
- a brief outline of your presentation

I will make copies of your handout for your classmates if you bring your original to my office before class.

I suggest that you divide up the work so that each member of the group does something different. However, I will give you a group grade.

After your presentation, I will evaluate your presentation. Your grade will be based on:

- Your careful preparation for your presentation: Do you know your material? Are you well organized? Did you make your presentation in a way that's clear and smooth? Did you keep us interested and engaged?

- Whether you used the time productively to teach us something worth knowing about your author and his/her writing. In other words, don't waste our time: your goal is to educate and engage us.

Your group will be assigned one of the following writers:

3. January 22 A. E. Housman
4. January 29 Wilfred Owen
5. February 5 W.B. Yeats
7. February 12 Katherine Mansfield
8. February 19 T.S. Eliot & W.H. Auden
9. March 4 Judith Wright
10. March 11 Philip Larkin & Seamus Heaney

4. End of Term Exam: 25%

This will be scheduled by the College. You'll write a test in which you'll identify authors, titles and quotes from the texts we'll have read during the semester. Note: The text presumes you do the reading assigned and that you take good notes over the term.

COURSE POLICY

Participation:

-This course requires participation by class members, so it is important that you attend in order to peer edit and contribute to class discussions. Regular and prompt attendance is required. You are responsible for material you miss if you are absent. I do not respond to "what did I miss" queries via email.

Assignments:

-Assignments are mandatory and due according to the dates & times specified. Late work will not be accepted (except under extraordinary circumstances) and will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

-Do not e-mail assignments.

-Please keep a copy of all work - including material you hand in - until final marks have been posted.

Email Policy:

While I make every effort to check email regularly, I would appreciate at least 24 hours to respond to questions/problems.

Student Disabilities:

-I would like to hear from students who have a disability that may require some modification in my teaching so that arrangements may be made to make them feel more at ease in class.

Reading Others' Work:

Regularly in this class you can expect others to read your writing and you to read theirs. Doing so will enrich the course and help us learn from each other. I expect everyone to be respectful of their classmate's writing, to take it seriously, to offer suggestions for revision in a constructive manner.

Academic Honesty:

- Plagiarism is a serious offence. All offences will be reported and will result in a failing grade for the course. **Students are assumed to be familiar with the "Academic Policies and Procedures" in the Camosun Calendar.**

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Weeks 2:

Modernism

(Start reading the Joyce novel)

Week 3

A. E. Housman

Exercise One 10%

Week 4

Wilfred Owen

Weeks 5

W.B. Yeats

Week 6

James Joyce: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Exercise Two 10%

Week 7:

Katherine Mansfield

Week 8:

T.S. Eliot

W.H. Auden

Week 9:

Judith Wright

(Start reading the Naipaul novel)

Week 10:

Philip Larkin

Seamus Heaney

Week 11:

Caryl Churchill

Week 12:

TBA

Week 13:

V. S. Naipaul: *A Bend in the River*

April 8th – Last Day

Essay Due 30%

Final Exam 25% (Date to be scheduled by the College)