British Literature 1800 - Present
English 2202H (Autumn 2013)
Class Meets: Denney Hall 245

Professor Thomas S. Davis
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Office Hours: Monday 3-5 or by appointment, Denney Hall 462
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Course Description
This course will provide a survey of literature composed within the British world-system from the turn of the 19th century to the present day. We will attend closely to the formal and stylistic developments of different periods of literary history—romanticism, realism, modernism, postmodernism—with an eye on the political and historical antagonisms that accompany and underwrite these aesthetic innovations. This course fulfills GEC requirements in the “literature” and “GE Diversity: Global Studies” categories.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of this class include:

1. Gaining familiarity with a variety of literary, historical, and cultural trends that shape the literature of the British world-system in the 19th and 20th centuries.
2. Understanding the way literary form internalizes and reshapes historical realities.
3. Developing and sharpening critical reading and writing skills. At different intervals, we will take time to reflect on our reading and interpretive practices.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Burgess, Anthony  
_A Clockwork Orange_ (Norton)

Conrad, Joseph  
_The Heart of Darkness_ (Penguin Classics)

Selvon, Samuel  
_The Lonely Londoners_ (Longman)

Woolf, Virginia  
_Mrs. Dalloway_ (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Three PDF packets available via Carmen:

_Romanticism_  
_Victorians_  
_The 20th Century_

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Engagement  

The level and success of your engagement with this class will be measured on two levels:

1. Participation (10%): All students must come prepared to class having read and thought about the assigned texts. Students will be evaluated on how actively they participate and how engaged they are in the class. You are expected to have all required materials with you. At some point in the semester, each student will recap the previous day’s discussion and help set the agenda for moving forward with questions or areas of concern. **NOTE:** Any single instance of using a phone or other electronic device will immediately result in the reduction of your participation grade to 0%. Turn these devices off (not sleep and not vibrate).

2. Reading quizzes (10%): Quizzes will come intermittently throughout the semester. They are intended to ensure careful and patient reading. You will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade. There are no make up quizzes.

Carmen Discussions:  

Students will post 5 discussion responses to prompts on the Carmen discussion board. There will be 10 prompts over the course of the semester. These are fairly informal responses and the prompts are designed to give you significant latitude in how you respond. The questions and concerns raised on the discussion board will assist us the next day in class. All responses must be posted by noon the day of class.

Midterm Exam:  

The midterm tests your knowledge of authors, works, and concepts covered in the first half of the semester. The exam will contain identifications, short answer questions, and an essay prompt.

Final Exam:  

The final exam will be a take home essay. Further information will be circulated after midterm.

Grade Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E: 0–59</td>
<td>D: 60–66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+: 67–69</td>
<td>C+: 70–72</td>
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<td>C: 73–76</td>
<td>C+: 77–79</td>
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<td>B+: 80–82</td>
<td>A: 90–100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B: 83–86</td>
<td>A+: 87–89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A+: 90–92</td>
<td>A: 93–100</td>
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COURSE POLICIES

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at each class session. Students are allowed to miss 3 classes without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a reduction of a student’s final grade by one step (that is, with 3 absences, an A becomes an A-; with 4, it becomes a B+). Late arrivals and early departures count as an absence. The student remains responsible for any information or assignments given out during missed classes. If you arrive to class without the assigned materials, you will be counted as absent (you cannot participate or follow the discussion without the texts). Five unexcused absences will automatically result in failure for the course.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices must be turned OFF before class (not on silent or vibrate). A single instance of texting or using such a device will automatically result in a complete loss of your participation grade. Laptops are prohibited, but e-readers—iPads, Kindles, etc.—are allowed until they become a problem. I reserve the right to alter this policy as needed throughout the semester.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and failure for the course. Please remember that at no point during the writing process should the work of others be presented as your own.

Late work All assignments should be turned in during the class period when they are due. Late assignments will lose one full letter grade for each day they are late. Only a doctor’s note (or comparable documentation) will serve as a legitimate excuse for late work.

Class Cancellation Policy: In the unlikely event that I need to cancel class, I will contact you via email and request that a note be placed on the door. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

RESOURCES

The OSU Writing Center is available to provide free, professional writing tutoring and consultation. You may set up an appointment by calling 688-4291 or by dropping by the center at 475 Mendenhall Laboratories. If you are interested in on-line writing advice, visit the OWL (On-Line Writing Lab) at www.cstw.osu.edu.

The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 2-3307.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One

22 August (Thursday)
- Introduction

Week Two: Romanticism I: Revolution, Violence, and Poetics (all readings contained in the Romanticism PDF packet)

27 August (Tuesday)
- British Perspectives on the French Revolution (Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and Mary Wollstonecraft)
- William Wordsworth from The Prelude

29 August (Thursday)
- William Wordsworth “Preface to Lyrical Ballads,” “I wandered lonely as a cloud,” “Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, 3 September 1802,” and “The World is Too Much With Us”

Week Three: Romanticism I (continued): Revolution, Violence, and Poetics

3 September (Tuesday)
- Percy Bysshe Shelley “Selections from A Defence of Poetry”
- Percy Bysshe Shelley “The Masks of Anarchy”

5 September (Thursday)
- Edmund Burke from A Philosophical Enquiry Into the Origins of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful
Week Four: Romanticism II: The Gothic and the Lyric

10 September (Tuesday)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge “Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

12 September (Thursday)
- John Keats “Ode on a Grecian Urn”; “Ode to a Nightingale”; “Ode on Melancholy”

Week Five: Victorian Realism: Precision and Paranoia (all readings contained in the Victorians PDF packet)

17 September (Tuesday)
- George Eliot from Middlemarch

19 September (Thursday)
- George Eliot from Middlemarch

Week Six: Victorian Realism: Precision and Paranoia

24 September (Tuesday)
- George Eliot from Middlemarch
- Robert Louis Stevenson Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

26 September (Thursday)
- Robert Louis Stevenson Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Week Seven: Passing Into the Twentieth Century: From Realism to Modernism (all readings apart from the four novels contained in the 20th Century PDF packet)

1 October (Tuesday)
- Midterm

3 October (Thursday)
- Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

Week Eight: Modernism I: Aesthetic Autonomy and Political Commitment

8 October (Tuesday)
- Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

10 October (Thursday)

Week Nine: Modernism II: Aesthetic Autonomy and Political Commitment

15 October (Tuesday)
- James Joyce “The Dead”

17 October (Thursday)
- War Poets: Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke, and Siegfried Sassoon

Week Ten: Modernism III: War and Catastrophe
22 October (Tuesday)
- Virginia Woolf Mrs. Dalloway

24 October (Thursday)
- Virginia Woolf Mrs. Dalloway

Week Eleven: From “High” to “Late” Modernism
29 October (Tuesday)
- Virginia Woolf Mrs. Dalloway

31 October (Thursday)
- John Grierson “First Principles of Documentary”
- Humphrey Jennings “Reports”
- Christopher Isherwood from Goodbye to Berlin

Week Twelve: Late Modernism, the Blitz, and Midcentury Pressures
5 November (Tuesday)
- Elizabeth Bowen “Demon Lover”; “Sunday Afternoon”; “In the Square”; “Happy Autumn Fields”; “Preface”

7 November (Thursday)
- Samuel Selvon The Lonely Londoners

Week Thirteen: Late Modernism at the End of Empire
12 November (Tuesday)
- Samuel Selvon The Lonely Londoners

14 November (Thursday)
- Anthony Burgess A Clockwork Orange

Week Fourteen: Postmodernism
19 November (Tuesday)
- Anthony Burgess A Clockwork Orange

21 November (Thursday)
- Anthony Burgess A Clockwork Orange

Week Fifteen: Rest
26 November (Tuesday)
- No class

28 November (Thursday)
- Thanksgiving NO CLASS

**Week Sixteen: Conclusions**

3 December (Tuesday)
- Course Wrap Up

**FINAL ESSAY EXAM DUE DECEMBER 9 BY 5PM (CARMEN DROPBOX). HARD COPY SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO MY DEPARTMENTAL MAILBOX IN DENNEY HALL 421 BY 5 PM.**