

English 108 F: The Rebel – Course Syllabus

Winter 2010

Tues. & Thurs. 1:00-2:20, STJ 2011

Instructor: J. Andrew Deman

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:30 (or by appointment)

Course Description:

A study of various works of literature in which the protagonist is a rebel against existing norms. The course will explore the rebel as both individual and symbol, analyzing the social and cultural investment within the literary rebel. We will explore works from authors of British, American, and Canadian descent. The main teaching approach will be lecture and in-class discussion on major topics as they arise from each individual work.

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to foster some understanding of how literature constructs, reflects, and challenges a wide variety of power structures as centred upon the figure of the rebel. Other objectives include the development of literary analytical skills, and essay-writing ability.

Required Texts:

Course Package 108 F – Available in Bookstore

George Orwell – *1984*

Chuck Palahniuk – *Fight Club*

Peter Shaffer – *Equus*

Susan Swan – *The Wives of Bath*

Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons – *V for Vendetta*

Assignments and Grading:

Final Exam – 25%

The final exam will test the student's comprehension of material covered in the readings and in-class discussions, and also require an essay section in which the student will demonstrate their ability to apply classroom concepts to the texts covered.

Final Essay – 40%

This paper will be the culmination of the student's work in the course. Due one week after the final day of class, this paper will be a comparison of two or more classroom texts with regard to an issue of relevance to in-class discussions. *All topics must be*

approved by me prior to writing. Students will receive a detailed description of this assignment along with possible essay topics well in advance of the due date. Minimum length of this essay is 6 pages.

Discussion Groups – 15%

3 Times throughout the year (indicated on schedule) I will divide you into groups, and provide you with a discussion question. Your task is to then facilitate an involved and productive discussion, resulting in a single written response for each group. Every group member will receive the same mark for this report.

Quizzes – 20%

A series of straightforward reading quizzes designed to test your ability to keep up with our reading schedule and your retention of pivotal information from the texts. No trick questions here. Just the basics.

Late Penalties

All written work submitted late will be subject to a penalty of 10 marks (out of 100) per day, including weekends.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: All students registered in courses at St. Jerome's University are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed following St. Jerome's University Academic Discipline Procedure and UW Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome's University Grievance Officer. Read St. Jerome's University Handbook, Section 4, item 8, www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/grievance_policy.html.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under St. Jerome's University Academic Discipline Procedure or Grievance Policy if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome's University Appeals Officer. Read St. Jerome's University Handbook, Section 6.4, www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/examinations_grades_standings_and_appeals.html.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Weekly Schedule (Subject to Alteration):

- Jan 5 – Introduction: Structures of Power and the Role of Literature.
- Jan 7 – Thoreau (CP) – The Consent of the Governed
- Jan 12 – Milton (CP) – Shaking Thrones
- Jan 14 – Milton (CP) – Demon's Choice: Forms of Response
- Jan 19 – Moore – The State and Social Responsibility
- Jan 21 – Moore – Anarchy vs. Chaos
- Jan 26 – Moore – The Graphic Medium
- Jan 28 – Orwell – Double-Think
- Feb 2 – Orwell – Big Brother and the Panopticon
- Feb 4 – Orwell – Winston Smith: Character Study
- Feb 9 – Orwell – **GROUP DISCUSSION #1**
- Feb 11 – Dostoyevsky (CP) – A Question of Faith and Benevolence
- Feb 16 & 18 – Reading Week (No Classes)**
- Feb 23 – Swan – Gender Rules, Gender Barriers.
- Feb 25 – Swan – The Teen Agenda: Rebellion as a State of Growth.
- Mar 2 – Swan – **GROUP DISCUSSION #2**
- Mar 4 – Education & Thought Control – No Readings due.
- Mar 9 – Shaffer – The Rebel and the Bounds of Decency
- Mar 11 – Shaffer – Youth in Crisis
- Mar 16 – Shaffer – Tracing the Postmodern Condition
- Mar 18 – Malcolm X/King (CP) – Racism and the Use of Violence.
- Mar 23 – Palahniuk – Commerce and You.
- Mar 25 – Palahniuk – Violence for Violence's Sake.
- Mar 30 – Palahniuk – **GROUP DISCUSSION #3**
- Apr 1 – Ginsberg (CP) – The Metaphysical Howl
- Apr 8 – **FINAL ESSAY DUE**