Course Description

We will be studying poems and novels with particular emphasis on how the form of a literary work contributes to its meaning, examining the dynamic relationship between form and content in order to explore some of the particularities and problems associated with generic designations. We’ll also be examining cinematic productions in order to complicate our understanding of the generic categories of “the poetic” and “the novelistic.”

The primary concern of the course is to facilitate close reading and analysis in class discussion and written assignments. Students are required to read critically and carefully and come to class prepared to discuss the works.

Required Texts

Novels

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*
Clowes, Dan. *Ghost World*
Joyce, James. *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Ondaatje, Michael. *In the Skin of a Lion*
Seuss, Dr. *The Lorax*

Poetry Course Pack

Bishop – “The Unbeliever,” “At the Fishhouses,”
Byron – “When we Two Parted,” “She Walks I Beauty,” “Ozymandias”
Carroll – “Jabberwocky” [with Humpty Dumpty’s Explication], “The Walrus and the Carpenter”
Coleridge – “Kubla Kahan”
Cummings – “In Just- “I sing of Olof...” “somewhere I have never traveled...,”
“anyone lived in a pretty how town”
Dickinson – Poems 712, 754, 986, 1078, 1125,
Donne – “The Canonization,” Holy Sonnets 1, 5, 10, 14,
Ginsburg – Part 1 of *Howl*, “A Supermarket in California”
Hardy – “Hap,” “The Darkling Thrush,” “The Ruined Maid”
Keats – “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
Milton – Book 1 of *Paradise Lost*, “When I Consider...,” ”Methought...”
Rich – “Planetarium,” “Diving into the Wreck”
Shakespeare – Sonnets 12,18,29,55,
Shelley – “Mutability,” “To Wordsworth”
Tennyson – “Locksley Hall”
Yeats – “The Lake of Innisfree,” “When You are Old,” “The Second Coming,”
“Two Songs from a Play” “Leda and the Swan”
Wordsworth “London, 1802,” “The World is Too Much With Us,” “Mutability,”
“T W a n d e r e d L o n e l y a s c a n d o w n,” “M y H e a r t L e a p s U p,” “S t r a n g e F i t s o f P a s s i o n,” “S h e
Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways"
Williams – “The Yong Housewife,” “Queen Ann’s Lace,”
“The Red Wheelbarrow,” "This is Just to Say,” “A Sort of a Song”
“Lear,” “Landscape with the Fall of Icarus”

On Reserve in Porter

NB1278 .S34x 2003
(online primer at http://www.perlesvaus.easynet.co.uk/hippeis/gallery/little_sparta/)

Films

Kubrick – 2001: A Space Odyssey
Lynch – Eraserhead
Nolan – Memento
Wells – Citizen Kane

Assignments

1 essay worth 30% (2,000 words, double spaced): I will provide a topic list (as opposed to a thesis statement) from which you may select, if you wish. I will ask you to compare poetic and novelistic texts. I expect you to move beyond plot issues and concentrate on craft – explore how the authors achieve the particular effects you are discussing. The final essays will be marked and available for pick-up at the final exam. All submissions made outside class time should be made to the English Department Drop Box – not my office!

Journal 15%: Every week I expect a journal entry of at least 500 words. The entry will address questions from the discussion list and will be handed in the last day of each discussion section. The journal will be marked on both completion and thought – formal essay style is not required. They will be marked (with a check or a minus) and returned. The complete package will be handed in with the final paper. The final package will receive an automatic 75% based on completion. Any mark above that will depend on the thoughtfulness and detail of your analysis of the weekly readings.

Midterm exam 20%

Final Exam 35%

Plagiarism, and other things that will land you in a world of academic pain: The friendly folks at the top would like me to remind you of the seriousness of plagiarism by inserting the following quotation from motion passed at the Arts Faculty Council, 1999 April 13:

"Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocall/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."
Note: On November 18/02, Senate passed a motion that all course outlines also contain the following reference to the student’s right to grieve: “Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html.”

For more info on how to avoid this whole messy business go to http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html

Schedule (Tentative)

May

3- Welcome, syllabus, “Literature”
5- Genres: an introduction to Poetry and Novel
10- Shakespeare; Donne
12- Milton (epic poetry)
17- Austen: Pride and Prejudice
19- Austen: Pride and Prejudice
24- Austen: Pride and Prejudice
26- Blake; Wordsworth
31- Coleridge; Keats; Shelley; Byron

Film: 2001: A Space Odyssey

June

2- Carroll; Tennyson
7- Dickenson; Hardy
9- Joyce: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
14- Joyce: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
16- Joyce: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
21- Eliot; Yates
23- Midterm Exam
28- Frost; Williams
30- Cummings; Bishop

Film: Citizen Kane

Film: Memento

July

5- Ondaatje: In the Skin of a Lion
7- Ondaatje: In the Skin of a Lion
12- Ondaatje: In the Skin of a Lion
14- Ginsburg; Rich
19- Finlay; Seuss
21- Clowes: Ghost World
26- Clowes: Ghost World
28- Clowes: Ghost World

Film: Eraserhead

Paper Due

Film Presentation Schedule
All films presented in RCH 204 from 6 – 8 p.m.

May

13 – 2001: A Space Odyssey

June

3 – Citizen Kane
17 – Memento

July

8 – Eraserhead
Department of English Contacts and Resources

Contacts:

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THE FACULTY OF ARTS REQUIRES THAT WE NOTIFY YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Dean of Arts:  
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