MAJOR FORMS OF LITERATURE: NOVELS AND POETRY

PART ONE: THE BASICS

a) Required Texts:

Dickens, Charles  
_Golden Age_  
Gwynn, R. S., ed.  _Poetry: A Longman Pocket Anthology, 2nd ed._
Rushdie, Salman  _Grimus_ (available as a CourseWare package from UW Bookstore)
Shelley, Mary  _Frankenstein_
Woolf, Virginia  _To the Lighthouse_

b) Recommended Texts:

McArthur, Murray, ed.  _The Little Brown Compact Handbook, Can. ed._ (All proceeds from the sale of this book will go into the Department of English Scholarship Fund.)

c) Assignments:

Spot Quizzes (10 at 1% each) 10%
Short Writing Assignments (4 at 5% each: 500 wds; due Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Mar. 9, Mar. 25) 20%
In-Class Writing Assignment (Feb. 11) 25%
Introduction to Research Paper (250 wds and working bibliography; due Mar. 16) 10%
Research Paper (1500 wds; due Apr. 6) 35%

**PLEASE NOTE:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due; all late assignments will be assessed a late penalty of 5% per day including weekends. Extensions will only be granted in extreme cases and with all appropriate documentation. **PLAGIARISM WILL BE PENALIZED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY THE UNIVERSITY.** (See Policy #71, available on the UW website, for more information about plagiarism and its consequences.)

d) Description:

In this course, we will examine selected examples of nineteenth- and twentieth-century novels and poetry, paying particular attention to how the form of a text creates, defines, shapes, and complicates its content. The course will consist of four “units”--Romantic, Victorian, Modern, and Postmodern; in each unit, we will discuss one “representative” novel and a selection of poetry. Short writing assignments will involve close readings of selections from individual works, and the major writing assignment will involve an exploration of relationships between periods or between genres within a period (e.g. an exploration of the relationship between Romantic and
Modern poetry, an exploration of the relationship between Victorian novels and poetry, etc.). The class will be conducted in a seminar format, with the occasional brief and informal lecture to introduce key topics, and all students are expected to contribute to class discussions.

PART TWO: THE SPECIFICS

a) Spot Quizzes (10 at 1% each)
Throughout the term, there will be ten spot quizzes, each of which will be based on the day's readings and any material covered during the previous class discussions. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that you complete all required readings and that you participate in class discussions. All quizzes are to be written at the beginning of class; if you come in after the quizzes have been handed in, you will miss that quiz and will not be allowed a rewrite. Similarly, if you miss a class when there is a quiz, you will miss that quiz and will not be allowed a rewrite. All quizzes will be in a short answer format (usually one or two words will be sufficient), they will be out of ten marks, and each quiz is worth 1% of your final grade.

b) Short Writing Assignments (4 at 5% each; due Jan. 21, Feb 4, Mar. 9, Mar. 25)
These assignments will be two-page (500 words) close-reading exercises that will require no secondary research (see reading schedule for due dates). Although for each assignment there will be a range of passages for students to choose from, two of the four short writing assignments will be on passages from poetry and two will be on passages from novels. The purpose of this type of assignment is to improve both your close-reading skills and your writing skills. In each case, I will provide you with a selection of passages (usually four): you will choose one of these passages, conduct a careful and thorough close-reading, and write a two-page mini-essay in which you discuss your close reading in relation to the text as a whole (for example, what does this passage contribute to our understanding of the text, what themes are developed, what complications are revealed, etc.). We will discuss the requirements for these assignments in greater detail during the first few classes. In all cases, written assignments are to be in MLA format; if you are unsure how to use MLA, consult the instructor. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the schedule, and all late assignments will be penalized 5% per day including weekends.

c) In-Class Writing Assignment (25%; Feb. 11)
This assignment will act as your mid-term examination and will take place in the class immediately before the reading week break. The purpose of this assignment is to improve your abilities to improvise an argument based on the reading and writing skills you have been practicing. You will be given a series of quotations (probably four) from texts other than those we have read in class, and you will be asked to discuss one of those quotations in relation to the themes and ideas we have been developing in class discussion. It is important that you keep in mind that this is meant to be an argument: you cannot deal with everything we have discussed. You will be expected to provide a reading of the quotation you have chosen and discuss that reading in relation to at least two of the texts we have discussed in class. Again, we will discuss this assignment in greater detail as we approach the mid-term period.
d) Working Introduction and Bibliography (10%; due Mar. 16)

This assignment is meant to prepare you to write an effective university-level research paper. Several weeks before the due date (consult reading schedule), you will be given a series of possible essay topics. You will choose one of the topics and write a working introduction to a paper of approximately six pages (1500 words). Your introduction should include the following: a brief discussion of the context of your essay, fuller discussion of the context of the thesis, a carefully worded and clearly stated thesis, and a suggestion of how the argument will unfold (what points will you cover and in what order). This part of the assignment should be approximately one page (250 words) long. You will also be expected to submit a working bibliography of at least one but no more than three secondary source(s). We will discuss this assignment in greater detail when topics are made available. Again, this assignment must be formatted according to MLA guidelines, and all late assignments will be penalized 5% per day including weekends.

e) Research Paper (35%; due Apr. 6)

This is the course’s major writing assignment. Bases on the working introduction discussed above, you will write a research essay of approximately six pages (1500 words). Remember, you must use at least one secondary source but no more than three. This assignment must be in MLA form. This assignment is due on the last day of classes; all late assignments will be penalized 5% per day including weekends.

PART THREE: THE SCHEDULE

Jan. 5: Welcome and Introduction

Jan. 7: Backgrounds and Contexts; Poetry Introduction (pages 1-33)

Jan. 12: Selections from Poetry (Blake, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Landor)

Jan. 14: Selections from Poetry (Byron, Shelley, Keats, Whitman)

Jan. 19: Frankenstein

Jan. 21: Frankenstein; FIRST SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

Jan. 26: Frankenstein

Jan. 28: Selections from Poetry (E. Browning, Tennyson, R. Browning, Arnold, Rossetti)

Feb. 2: Hard Times

Feb. 4: Hard Times; SECOND SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE
Feb. 9: *Hard Times*

Feb. 11: IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Feb. 16: ***READING WEEK***

Feb. 18: ***READING WEEK***

Feb. 23: Lecture/Discussion on Essay Writing

Feb. 25: Selections from *Poetry* (Dickinson, Hardy, Hopkins, Yeats, Frost, Stevens)

Mar. 2: Selections from *Poetry* (Williams, Pound, H. D., Eliot, Millay, Parker)

Mar. 4: *To the Lighthouse*

Mar. 9: *To the Lighthouse*; THIRD SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

Mar. 11: *To the Lighthouse*

Mar. 16: Selections from *Poetry* (Cummings, Hughes, Auden, Roethke, Thomas, Jarrell, Brooks, Lowell, Larkin); WORKING INTRODUCTIONS/BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

Mar. 18: Selections from *Poetry* (Creeley, Ginsberg, Merril, O'Hara, Ashberry, Rich, Plath, Atwood, Heaney, Olds)

Mar. 23: *Grimus*

Mar. 25: *Grimus*; FOURTH SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

Mar. 30: *Grimus*

Apr. 1: sound poetry, spoken word performance, etc. (video/audio samples will be played in class)

Apr. 6: NO CLASS; FINAL PAPER DUE