ENGLISH 102B:
The Major Forms of Literature: Novels and Poetry
Professor B. Cantar
Hagey Hall 258, Tel 888-4567 x 6027
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10 - 11: 30 am (or by appointment)

Course Description and Structure:
English 102A and 102B are designed to introduce students to the university study of the major forms of literature. English 102B examines novels and poetry assessing how their formal construction contributes to their meaning. Moreover, since novels and poetry are written in a variety of forms (epic, epistolary, realistic, lyrical etc.), in several historical periods (Restoration, Romantic, Victorian, Modern) and by both men and women, we will also consider how or whether each or any of these aspects inform our understanding of the novels and poems under consideration, or indeed, whether it matters who wrote what, when, or how. We will also consider how much our understanding is informed by our own expectations: i.e. what we expect to find when we pick up a novel or a poem, and what happens when these expectations are defeated. So, while there is a great deal of work in this course, I hope you will find it stimulating and enjoyable work to which you contribute fully with your questions and comments.

The course is not intended to be an exhaustive study of these two forms, but we will have time to taste and savour the major ones. Classes will consist of lectures and class discussions. For this, you will need to come to class prepared and having completed the assigned readings.

Assignments and Grading:
Two essays of approximately 4 pages each (typewritten, or word processed, double-spaced) worth 15% each: due February 5th and March 5th. Two in-class quizzes, Feb 12 and March 14, worth 10% each. Final exam (TBA) worth 50%.
Class attendance and participation will affect the grade up to 5%. There may be a deduction of marks up to 5% if your attendance is noticeably irregular.

Late Policy and consultation:
Essays are due in class on the due date. Extensions without penalty are not granted for any other reason but a medical or other related emergency-type event. In order to be granted this, you will need to provide a written doctor's note. Late submissions without prior permission will be deducted at a rate of 2% per day. Essays submitted more than two weeks after the due date may not be accepted at all. I need to be informed if you have a problem meeting these criteria. My office hours are noted at the top of the syllabus. I am also available by email: bcantar@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

Texts:
Behn, Aphra. Oroonoko or The Royal Slave
Austen, Jane. Mansfield Park
Woolf, Virginia. To The Lighthouse
Chong, Denise. The Concubine’s Children
Ferguson, Margaret et al. The Norton Anthology of Poetry (Shorter Fourth Edition)
The Faculty of Arts requires that we notify you of the following:
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.

Class Schedule (subject to occasional revision)

Thur Jan 3   Introduction to the novel: conventions & expectations
Tues Jan 8   *Oronooko*—Aphra Behn and the rise of the novel
Thur Jan 10  *Oronooko*—race and gender
Tues Jan 15  *Oronooko*—gender & women’s writing
Thur Jan 17  *Mansfield Park*—Jane Austen and the neoclassical novel
Tues Jan 22  *Mansfield Park*—class and gender
Thur Jan 24  *Mansfield Park*—romance and economics
Tues Jan 29  *To the Lighthouse*—Virginia Woolf and modernism
Thur Jan 31  *To the Lighthouse*—narrative and consciousness
Tues Feb 5   *To the Lighthouse*—gender and the arts (essay due)
Thur Feb 7   *The Concubine’s Children*—Denise Chong and national fiction
Tues Feb 12  *The Concubine’s Children*—redefining the novel (in-class quiz)
Thur Feb 14  *The Concubine’s Children*—portrait of a people

WINTER STUDY PERIOD (Feb 18–22)

Tues Feb 26  Introduction to poetry, terms & ways of reading
Thur Feb 28  Medieval poetry: epic form
Tues Mar 5   Early Modern Ballads (essay due)
Thur Mar 7   sonnet and lyric—16th c.
Tues Mar 12  metaphysical poetry—17th c.
Thur Mar 14  pastoral elegy (in-class quiz)
Tues Mar 19  narrative poems
Thur Mar 21  Romanticism—childhood and nature
Tues Mar 26  Modernism—between the wars
Thur Mar 28  contemporary poetry—breaking the form
Tues Apr 2   contemporary song lyrics, are they really poetry? Convince me.
Thur Apr 4   conclusions, open discussion, review