English 102B – The Major Forms of Literature: Novels and Poetry
WINTER 2010
MWF 11:30-12:20, ML 346

Instructor: Kevin McGuirk, Haleg Hall 263, x32419
Office Hours: W 3:30-5:30 and by appointment

Calendar Description:

A study of novels and poetry to determine how the shape of a literary work contributes to its meaning.

Particular Description and Course Objectives:

Welcome to English 102B, an introductory course in reading novels and poetry. Course objectives include: to enhance our empirical and interpretive abilities; to build a repertoire of critical terms and concepts, making these “operational” in discussion and writing; and generally to enrich our capacity for literary pleasure and point. We will approach these objectives by reading a range of novels and poetry from several centuries and “national” traditions. As the calendar description suggests, we will pay special attention to the ways in which “shape” or form (diction, syntax, quantity, pattern, point of view, rhetoric, genre, etc.), content, and context interact to make reading a novel or poem a valuable personal and social experience.

Texts:

The Rattle Bag, edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, Faber
Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart, Anchor
George Elliot, Adam Bede, Signet
Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter, Dover
any handbook of literary terms (recommended: M.H. Abrams, A Glossary of Literary Terms)

Approximate Schedule:

Always bring your text to class!

January 4, 6, 8 introductions, poetry

* particular readings in poetry from The Rattle Bag will be indicated as we proceed

January 11, 13, 15 poetry

January 18, 20, 22 Things Fall Apart

January 25, 27, 29 Things Fall Apart, Adam Bede Essay #1 due on January 29

February 1, 3, 5 Adam Bede

February 8, 10, 12 Adam Bede Midterm on Wednesday the 10th

reading week

February 22, 24, 26 The Scarlet Letter
March 1, 3, 5 *The Scarlet Letter*, scheduled meetings with the instructor

*Introductory paragraph due on March 1*

March 8, 10, 12 poetry  

*Essay #2 due on March 8*

March 15, 17, 19 poetry 

March 22, 24, 26 poetry 

March 29, 31 poetry 

April 5 review for exam  

*Essay #3 due*

**Assignments and Values:**

1. **Essay #1:** 600 words. 10%. You will write an essay responding to an assigned topic.

2. **Midterm test:** 10%. February 10th. You will write two essays on sight passages drawn from fiction and poetry read to date and define a selection of terms introduced in lectures.

3. **Introductory paragraph:** 150-200 words. 5%. You will prepare a trial introductory paragraph for Essay #2, which I will assess and discuss with you in a brief meeting ahead of you writing the complete essay. Topics will be assigned.

4. **Essay #2:** 1000 words. 20%.

5. **Essay #3:** 1250 words. 25%. Topics will be assigned.

6. **Final exam:** 30%. The first half of the exam will be much like the midterm except that sight passages will be chosen from the second half of the course. The other half will consist of prepared essays on materials, methods, and topics discussed in the course.

**Policies:**

**Attendance:** If you want to make the most of the course, regular attendance will be important for a number of related reasons. 1. The course does not depend on UW-ACE. All information about the course, including assignment sheets, will be disseminated in class. 2. Literary knowledge is *rhetorical*, that is, it emerges from and is sustained in ongoing debate by scholars, teachers, critics, students, and readers generally. You have to participate in it to *know* it. 3. You will *learn* best not just by reading texts passively (or actively) on your own, but by attending class and participating in discussion. I will know all your names and will call on you, at the very least, to read aloud in class. 4. You will have to know what goes on in class to prepare for the midterm and exam.

**Submitting papers:** Hand in essays to me in class on the due date. Alternatively, leave your essay in the English department drop box on the second floor of Hagey Hall before 4 p.m. on the due date. Print essays on white paper, double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point or similar font. Do not submit your paper in a duo-tang or plastic cover. A cover sheet is not necessary either. Your name and course information along with the date should appear in the top left corner of the first page of your essay. Prospective English majors should get to know MLA style.
Late papers: A paper may be submitted one or two days late when you make request for an extension before the due date. Longer extensions will be given only in the case of documented incapacitation.

Plagiarism: Outside of the university, plagiarism may be "actionable." That is, legal action may be taken against you. Plagiarism is also an ethical concern. See Notes from the Arts Faculty below. I will discuss the subject in class as part of regular instruction in writing.

Office hours: My office hours are for you. Please do not hesitate to drop by and see me to discuss any aspect of the course. I am often in my office outside of posted hours, and I would be happy to discuss the course matters with you whenever you find me in and not too busy.

Laptops: I strongly discourage you from using a laptop in class. It is simply too easy to click to email, facebook, or other sites during class. Anyone would be tempted. And when you do things other than notetaking with your laptop, you’re not the only student mentally checking out: everyone around you will be distracted. Finally, the screen itself is a barrier between you and the class and therefore a barrier to participation. If you choose to use a laptop, I may require you to sit immediately in front of me or, if you appear to be surfing the internet, to close the laptop for the remainder of the course.

Notes from the Arts Faculty:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. (Check http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity for more information.)

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, http://adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.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. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or the penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71, if a ground for appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academicresponsibility.html.

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

Notes for Students with Disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.