The violence of the "Great War," as the conflict of 1914-1918 came to be known, shocked the Western World. The conflict unleashed the power of modern technology and left a generation suspicious of progress—a notion which many of their predecessors took for granted—and distrustful of professed values. Nevertheless, Victorians had been neither naive nor innocent optimists, and many warned their contemporaries about the "darkness" which lay close to the human heart; nineteenth-century Biblical criticism raised religious doubts in the minds of many people; economic and historical studies questioned the validity of any grand scheme of social evolution; philosophers warned of the necessity for "a transvaluation of values," and of the destructive impulses contained within European society. And to this, the annihilation of a generation of young men in the trenches of Europe made life and values seem tentative at best and led to what Gertrude Stein was to call "the Lost Generation."

During this term we will discuss a few texts—largely British, though one might obviously have included many more from North America and other parts of the English-speaking world as well. In twelve weeks, however, there is time only for a few of the stories, novels, and poems written during the years which precede, include, and follow the "Great War." Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* at the beginning of the century sounded an ominous warning about the fragility of civilization and the darkness which lay behind idealistic protestations of European colonists. Novelists and poets such as Woolf, Hemingway and Fitzgerald, Eliot and Yeats responded further to the intellectual, psychological, and spiritual implications of the new century.

**Texts**

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
E. Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
Evelyn Waugh, *Decline and Fall*
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

**Essays and Examinations**

Please note the dates for essays and examinations. These are given at the beginning of term so that you can arrange your work schedule to meet them without last minute hurry.

Two essays will be required:

1. The first will be a short essay on Wilfrid Owen's "Strange Meeting" 500 words. (15%):
   **Due:** 17 October.
2. The second essay will be an analysis of Katherine Mansfield's "The Daughters of the Late Colonel." There is no assigned length for this essay. (35%): Due: 16 November.

Specific topics will be discussed later. These are formal essays and should be carefully prepared and presented. It is always best to present typewritten copy, with the usual provision of margins and end-notes where appropriate. Consult The MLA Style Sheet for details.

Two examinations will be required:
I. Mid-term Examination. (20%) 31 October
II. Final Examination as scheduled by the University. (30%)

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**Syllabus**

Read all of the assigned texts for the day on which they are assigned even if we fall behind in discussion. Class participation is required—but you are not marked on "right" answers. Think about the significance of the texts before you come to class and be prepared to share your thoughts. We will centre our discussion on those texts marked with * but you are responsible for all works on the list.

**September**

12. Introduction
   Arnold: *Dover Beach; Hecht: *Dover Bitch


19, 21, 26. Conrad: *Heart of Darkness


**October**

3. Joyce: *The Dead

5. Eliot: *Prufrock
   Yeats: *Among School Children

10, 12. Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway
   A Room of One's Own
17. Nellie McClung, "A Time of Innocence"
    Guest: *The Soldier
    Brooke: *The Soldier
    Sassoon: *Dreamers
    McCrae: *Flanders Field

**ESSAY I DUE: 17 OCTOBER**

19, 24, 26.

Thomas: Adelstrop, Tears, *The Owl, Rain, The Cherry Trees, *As the Team's Head Boss
Cannan: Rouen
Sassoon: *They, *The Rear Guard, *The General, Glory of Women, Everyone Sang,
    On Passing the New Menin Gate, Dreamers, *Repression of War Experience,
From "Memoirs of George Sherston"
Owen: *Anthem for Doomed Youth, *Apologia Pro Poemate Meo, Miners, *Dulce et
    Decorum Est, Strange Meeting, Futility.
Rosenberg: *Break of Day, Louse Hunting, *Returning We Hear the Larks, *Dead
    Man's Dump, On Receiving News of War.
cummings: *I sing of olaf, *the bigness of cannon.

**MID-TERM; October 31 (in class)**

November


14, 16. Waugh: *Decline and Fall.

**ESSAY II DUE: 16 November**

21, 23. Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises.


5. Conclusion and catch-up.

December