ENGL 105A: Twentieth-Century Literature, 1900 to 1945
Summer 2003

Class Times: Thursdays, 6-9pm
Place: DWE 1501
Instructor: Michael Truscello
Office Hours: PAS 1064, Mondays 1:00-3:00, or by appointment
Mailbox: English Department Drop Box in Hagey Hall (2nd floor); email: novel_t@rogers.com

Course Summary: The years that encompass the "Modernist" period are some of the most tumultuous in the history of the Western World: the collapse of the British Empire, the rise of totalitarianism, two world wars, genocides, the Great Depression.... These are just some of the world-shaping (or world-breaking) events that took place between 1900 and 1945. Writers tried to deal with these events in a number of ways, in both the content and form of their works, from trying to find some sense in the chaos around them to trying to represent the chaos adequately to trying to ignore it as much as they could. In this class, we will examine works by some of the (mostly British and American) writers of the Modernist period, paying particular attention to how those works responded, and contributed, to the world(s) around them – the social, political, historical, and literary contexts in which they were produced and to which they contributed. An essential goal of this course is to develop the reading, analysis, and writing habits of first-year students. To this end, class #3 will combine the study of a short story with a writing workshop. The workshop will cover the basic elements of an academic essay, and instruction on how to develop a thesis.

Required Texts:
Faulkner, William. As I Lay Dying.
Joyce, James. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.
Woolf, Virginia. Mrs. Dalloway.
*Courseware Package. (see below for contents of courseware package)

Recommended Texts:

Assignments:
1. Short Essay (4-6 typed pages): 20%
   Due June 12, 2003. Details to follow.

2. Long Essay (6-8 typed pages): 50%
   Due July 31, 2003. Details to follow.

3. Final Exam: 30%
   TBA by the university.

Essay Policies: Essays will be handed in to me at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. Essays that are not handed to me directly must be signed and dated by a department secretary and placed in my mailbox via the English Department Drop Box. The English Department is open daily from 8:30 to 4:30 and is closed on the weekend.
Late essays will be docked 2% per day starting the day the assignment is due, including weekends. Extensions are at my discretion for serious medical and/or family emergencies only. Budget your time and plan on handing in your assignments on time.

Please note: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with according to the University of Waterloo Disciplinary Code (see Policy 71 in Undergraduate Calendar). All quotations, paraphrased material and ideas which are not your own MUST be properly cited and referenced.

Class Schedule:
*Readings from the Courseware Package.

May 8: Introduction to Modernism


May 22: Eliot, The Waste Land

May 29: Writing Clinic*; Joyce, “The Dead”*

June 5: Joyce, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

June 12: Essay #1 due; Portrait of the Artist cont’d*

June 19: Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway; “Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown”*

June 26: Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

July 3: Hemingway, “Big Two-Hearted River”*

July 10: Faulkner, As I Lay Dying

July 17: Faulkner, As I Lay Dying

July 24: Beckett, Waiting for Godot

July 31: No class; Essay #2 Due