ENGLISH 105A

TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE
IN ENGLISH (1900-1945)

HH 139

Tues. & Thurs. 8:30-11:00

Instructor: P. Kreller
Office: HH 268
Telephone: (H) 669-2421
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs.
(O) 888-4567 (ex. 2946)
10:00-10:30, 1:00-2:00
E-mail: pkreller@golden.net

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 105A examines representative works by authors writing in English from 1900 to
1945.

The first part of the course focusses on British and Irish writers in the first two decades of
the century. When Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887, Britain was at the height
of her imperial glory. Subsequent events, such as the Boer War (1898-1901), the death of Victoria
(1901), the sinking of the Titanic (1912), the troubles in Ireland, and especially World War I
(1914-1918), undermined British confidence. The literature of the period reflects this uncertainty
and anxiety.

The second part of the course focusses on American literature in the 1920s and '30s. This
was a volatile period: The "Roaring Twenties" ended in the Great Depression, and by the end of the
'30s the world was again at war.

OBJECTIVES:

English 105A has several related objectives:
1. To give you practice and training in reading and interpreting individual pieces of literature with
greater insight and making comparisons among them.
2. To make you aware of the cultural and historical context of works written between 1900 and
1945.
3. To give you practice in critical analysis of individual works and comparative analysis of several
works.
4. To help you write more effectively.
5. To give you some enjoyment reading (I hope!).
TEXT BOOKS:

The following text books are required:

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Dover).
Kathrine Mansfield, *In a German Pension* (Dover).
Eugene O'Neill, *The Emperor Jones* (Dover).

Poetry will be provided on handouts.

The following text is recommended:

Jane E. Aaron and Murray McArthur, *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*, First Canadian Edition (Addison-Wesley). [This text has useful sections on punctuation, grammar, and sentence errors, as well as suggestions for writing essays and a summary of the MLA style. All royalties derived from the sale of this text will be donated to the Department of English scholarship fund.]

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

(* indicates poetry)

1. Thomas Hardy: ""The Darkling Thrush," "Convergence of the Twain."
2. Mansfield: *In a German Pension.*
5. Yeats: ""Second Coming"; ""Leda and the Swan."
8. Vachel Lindsay: ""The Congo."
10. Sandburg: ""Jazz Fantasia"; Fletcher: ""Jazz Age."
12. Faulkner: *As I Lay Dying.*
15. Cummings: ""r-p-o-p-h-o-s-s-a-g-r," ""anyone lived in a pretty how town," ""pity this busy monster, manunkind," ""what if a much of a which of a wind."
GRADES AND ASSIGNMENTS:

You will be required to write three short essays (4-5 double-spaced, typewritten pages, approximately 1000-1250 words). These will account for 60% of your final grade (i.e., 20% each).

One three-hour final exam will account for the remaining 40% of your grade.

Class participation will affect the grade positively (up to 5%). There may be some deduction of marks if your attendance is noticeably irregular.

Note also: One number grade (1%) may be subtracted for each day that a paper is late unless an extension has been granted in advance. No paper will be accepted after the other students’ papers have been returned to them.

The Faculty of Arts requires that we notify you of the following:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: 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."