ENGLISH 105A (01)
20th-Century English Literature, 1900-1945

Winter 1995

Instructor: Mark Spilmacher
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Office hours: TR 1:30 - 4:00; or by appointment
Meeting time: TR 11:30-1:00 in E1 3519

Course Description

This course involves a close examination of a representative selection of authors writing in English, in an era often labelled "the Modern period." We will discuss questions of social context, innovation, and critical interpretations. Although classes will primarily be lecture-oriented, I will do my utmost to prompt student responses and class discussion.

Required Texts

Joyce, Dubliners (Signet)
Anderson, Winesburg, Ohio (Penguin)
Woolf, Mrs Dalloway (Oxford) Recommended: MLA Handbook
Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God (Harper Collins)
Callaghan, More Joy in Heaven (New Can. Lib.)
O'Neill Long Day's Journey into Night (Yale)

Requirements

Student attendance and participation 5%
Short Essay (4-5 pages) 15%
Mid-term Examination 20%
Longer Essay (8-10 pages) 25%
Final Examination 35%

One percentage point per day will be deducted for late essays. See me well in advance for possible extensions. Essays not delivered into my hands must be dated and signed by an English Department secretary and placed in my mailbox. Essays must be entirely the student's OWN work, with all citations properly referenced. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with accordingly as per the University of Waterloo's disciplinary code.

My expectations of you are that you will come to class having read the assigned texts and prepared to discuss them. I cannot help but be favourably influenced by obvious student interest and willing contributions to class; therefore my policy is to consider slightly raising the final grade of those students who have made an impression.
Schedule

Jan 3  
Introduction to Modernism

5   Hardy: "The Darkling Thrush" (42); Yeats: "No Second Troy" (77), "Easter 1916" (81), "The Second Coming" (83); Robinson: "Miniver Cheevey" (115)

10  Dubliners

12  Dubliners

17  Stevens: "Sunday Morning" (150), "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" (155), "Anecdote of the Jar" (157), "The Emporer of Ice Cream" (158), "The Idea of Order at Key West" (159)

19  Critical/interpretive approaches; tips on essay writing

24  Winesburg, Ohio

26  Winesburg, Ohio

31  Pound: "Portrait d'une Femme" (216), "The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter" (217), "In a Station of the Metro" (218); Williams: "The Red Wheelbarrow" (173), "This Is Just to Say" (174), "Portrait of a Lady" (174)

Feb 2  H.D.: "Sea Rose" (236), "Oread" (236), "Helen" (237); Moore: "Poetry" (259); Millay: "First Fig" (309), "Recuerdo" (309)

7    Mrs. Dalloway; first essay is due

9    Mrs. Dalloway

14  Mrs. Dalloway

16  Midterm Examination

21  READING

23  WEEK

28  Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (272)

Mar 2  Cummings: "i sing of Olaf glad and big" (320), "my father moved through dooms of love" (322), "plato told" (324)

7    Their Eyes Were Watching God

9    Their Eyes Were Watching God
14 Hughes: "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (360), "The Weary Blues" (360), "Brass Spitons" (361); Cullen (370-373)

16 Frost: "Birches" (126), "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" (131), "Fire and Ice" (131), "Design" (135); Auden "Musée des Beaux Arts" (415)

21 More Joy in Heaven

23 More Joy in Heaven

28 Long Day's Journey into Night

30 Long Day's Journey into Night; second essay is due

NOTES:

1. Topics for the first essay will be handed out on 19 January; topics for the final paper will be handed out on 28 February. You may consult me if you have ideas for your own topics.

2. For the mid-term you will be responsible for all material covered up to that date. The final exam will cover Joyce, Stevens, Anderson, Woolf and all readings assigned after the mid-term. Exams will not be open book. On the exams, be prepared to discuss even that assigned material which we did not have time to discuss in class.