Instructor: Marion Muirhead
Office: PAS 1284, ex 2685  email: memuirhe@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Hours: Monday 5:00 - 7:00

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to examine a range of texts that have as their theme the isolation and alienation of women and men. Our focus will be mainly, but not exclusively, on the relation between the individual and society. The expectations of society create pressures and tensions for the individual that may be seen as an opportunity for learning and growth of the self, or conversely, as a distortion of self-concept and an inhibition of self-determination and self-potential. Is society a product of its individuals' characteristics, or is the individual a product of society? Issues discussed will include gender, class, race, consumerism, technology, the social construction of reality, language, and other sites of perceived alienation. English 108H offers an opportunity to explore these issues in lectures, discussions, and essays.

Tentative Schedule

May  
1  Introduction
8  Inspecting the Vaults, Eric McCormack
15 Interview with the Vampire, Anne Rice
22 Victoria Day (no class)
29 The Awakening, Kate Chopin

June  
5  The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
12 I'll be Leaving You Always, Sandra Scoppettone
19 Neuromancer, William Gibson
26 

July 3  Canada Day (no class)
10 White Noise, Don DeLillo
17 
24 Generation X, Douglas Coupland

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay I</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>May 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay II</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>June 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay III</td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>July 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>every class</td>
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Essays

All essays must conform to MLA style. Consult the style manual and reference all sources properly. Correct grammar and academic structure are mandatory.

Class Participation

This is an assignment like any other. You must complete the assignment to get a mark. Participation in class discussions is your opportunity to demonstrate that you have read the text, thought about it, and formulated your ideas in a scholarly way. Discussions will include both literary and ideological issues. This means that you do not have to be a lit major to participate. Your ideas are valued, whatever your background.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you get credit for your class contributions. The easiest method is to state your name before you make a comment. An occasional visit to my office during office hours to discuss your current essay topic will also help me to remember who you are. I will make an effort to learn student's names by taking attendance. However, you do not earn participation marks simply by attending class.

NB: Assignments are due on the due date with a late penalty of 10% per day for a maximum of three days unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation.