ENGL 108H (01): Isolation and Alienation
Winter 2003

Class Times: Tuesdays, 6-9pm
Place: DWE 1501
Instructor: Michael Truscello
Office Hours: FAS 1064, Mondays 1:00-3:00, or by appointment
Mailbox: English Department Drop Box; email: novel1@rogers.com

Course Summary: English 108H will examine the concepts of “isolation” and “alienation” as historical and ideological constructs through an exploration of literary texts. The texts on the syllabus represent a variety of historical epochs and identities. We will examine the construction of the concepts of “alienation and isolation” from a postcolonial perspective (Lucy), a modernist perspective (“Prufrock”), a Marxist perspective (Brecht), a pre-20th century Western feminist perspective (Wollstonecraft, Freeman, Chopin), and a postmodern, media age perspective (White Noise).
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, in which students will produce writing samples and critique them. The workshop will cover the basic elements of an academic essay, and instruction on how to develop a thesis.

Required Texts:

Brecht, Bertolt. The Good Person of Szechwan.
Chopin, Kate. The Awakening.
DeLillo, Don. White Noise.
Kincaid, Jamaica. Lucy.
*Courseware Package. (see below for contents of courseware package)

Recommended Texts:


Assignments:

1. Short Essay (4-6 typed pages): 20%
Due February 11, 2003. Details to follow.

2. Long Essay (6-8 typed pages): 50%
Due April 1, 2003. Details to follow.

3. Final Exam: 30%
TBA by the university. A leaf of notes will be allowed.

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.

January 7: Introduction

January 14: Lucy

January 21: Writing Workshop*; Jamaica Kincaid’s “Xuela”*


February 4: Good Person of Szechwan; excerpts from Brecht on Theatre*

February 11: Essay #1 due; Good Person of Szechwan cont’d

February 18: READING WEEK


March 4: The Awakening

March 11: Film: The Shining

March 18: The Shining discussion; begin White Noise

March 25: White Noise cont’d

April 1: No class; Essay #2 Due