"Isolation and Alienation"
English 108H
Winter 1996

Instructor: Marion Muirhead
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Class: ML117 T7-10

Hours: Tuesday 6:00-7:00, Friday 2:00-3:00
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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, discussion, seminars, and essays.

Tentative Schedule

Jan. 9 Introduction
    16 The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Anne Bronte
    23 Inspecting the Vaults, Eric McCormack
    30 The Awakening, Kate Chopin
Feb. 6 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
    13 I'll be Leaving You Always, Sandra Scoppettone
    first essay due
    20 Reading Week (no class)
    27 Neuromancer, William Gibson
March 5 Neuromancer, continued
    12 White Noise, Don DeLillo
    19 "
    26 Generation X, Douglas Coupland
    second essay due
April 2 Review

Assignments

Seminar: 10-15 mins   worth 10%