Required Texts:

Camus, Albert *The Outsider*
Conrad, Joseph *Heart of Darkness*
Coupland, Douglas *Generation X*
Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Left Hand of Darkness*
Orwell, George *Animal Farm*
Reading Package (can be purchased in the bookstore)

Recommended Text:

McArthur, Murray *The Little Brown Compact Handbook, Canadian Ed.* (All proceeds from the sale of this text will go into the University of Waterloo Department of English Scholarship Fund.)

Assignments:

Quizzes (10, worth 1% each) 10%
Short Essay (Due February 5) 15%
Midterm (In class essay, March 5) 25%
Introduction and Working Bibliography (Due March 19) 10%
Research Essay (Due April 7) 40%

*PLEASE NOTE: Assignments must be submitted AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DAY THEY ARE DUE. Students will be assessed a late penalty of 5% PER DAY, INCLUDING WEEKENDS. Only in extreme circumstances will extensions be granted. Plagiarism will be penalized to the fullest extent allowed by the university.*

Description:

The related themes of alienation and isolation are central themes in much twentieth-century literature; in fact, these are common themes throughout the literary history of the Western world. In this class, we will examine "individuals in crisis" in (mostly twentieth-century) literature, including novels, short fiction, poetry, and drama. In addition to exploring the literary representations of these themes, we will examine the historical, political, and philosophical contexts of the texts, often paying particular attention to such issues as gender, race, and class, among others. Furthermore, we will examine the following questions: what does it mean to be alienated and/or isolated? how do different authors represent these themes? do they use literature as a way to defeat alienation and/or isolation? do they use literature as a tool for alienating and/or isolating? what do these themes--and the exploration of these themes--teach us about literature?
about ourselves? The class will be conducted in a seminar format--with the occasional short lecture to introduce key topics--and all students are expected to contribute to class discussions.

Reading Schedule (Texts marked with (*) are in the reading package):

January 6: Welcome and Introduction
   8: McFarlane, "The Mind of Modernism" (*)

January 13: Kafka, "Metamorphosis" (*)
   15: Kafka, "Metamorphosis" (*)

January 20: Hemingway, "A Clean, Well Lighted Place" (*) and Camus, "The Silent Men" (*)
   22: Lessing, "To Room Nineteen" (*) and Woolf, selections from *A Room of One's Own* (*)

January 27: Eliot, "The Wasteland" (*)

February 3: Camus, *The Outsider*
   5: Camus, *The Outsider* ***FIRST ESSAY DUE****

February 10: Hall, "Miss Ogilvy Finds Herself" (*)
   12: Beckett, "Krapp's Last Tape" (*)

February 17 and 19: READING WEEK

February 24: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
   26: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

March 3: Review
   5: ***IN CLASS ESSAY****

March 10: Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*
   12: Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*

March 17: Selections from E.E. Cummings (*) and Plath, "Daddy" (*)
   19: Pynchon, "Entropy" (*) and Gass, "In the Heart of the Heart of the Country" (*)
   ***INTRO/BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT DUE****

March 24: Orwell, *Animal Farm*
   26: Orwell, *Animal Farm*

March 31: Coupland, *Generation X*

April 2: Coupland, *Generation X*

April 7: Wrap up. ***FINAL ESSAY DUE****