Honour Literary Studies: ENGL301H
Domestic Fiction and Its Cultural Contexts, 1814-2002
Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:50, STJ 1023. Fall 2004

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Office Hours: Tues 1:00-2:00, Thurs 10:00-11:00
885-1211 ext. 3965

TEXTS:
Jane Austen, Mansfield Park ed. June Sturrock (Broadview)
Harriet Jacobs, "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" ON RESERVE, Porter: please photocopy
Charlotte Brontë, Villette ed. Tony Tanner (Penguin)
L.M. Montgomery, Emily of New Moon and Rilla of Ingleside
Mary Lawson, Crow Lake (Vintage)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Through lectures, discussion, and presentations by visiting faculty, this course provides Honours
students with an enriched survey of the discipline of literary studies. Topics of discussion will be
drawn from bibliography and research methods, critical approaches to literature, literary history,
genre studies, rhetoric, media perspectives, and other areas of scholarly interest.

Each version of the course will be designed to accommodate both the instructor’s
research interests and the research interests of various faculty members in the English
Department. This version of the course will investigate the representation of the domestic sphere
in novels written from the Romantic through to the contemporary period. We will also consider
letters, journals, periodicals, and other cultural artifacts that will assist us in understanding
gender roles, representations of space and place, work, play, law, regulation, and surveillance in
the domestic lives represented in the novels. We will also consider questions of genre, historical
contexts, literariness, and film adaptation.

Although there will be scheduled lectures by the instructor or by guest lecturers, classes
will depend on the active participation of students in discussion and on informal presentations on
a variety of topics relevant to the course material.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:  value  due
Short essay (4 pages in MLA format) 25%  October 12
Bibliographic Research Assignment 10%  November 18
Research Essay (7-8 pages in MLA format) 30%  December 2
Final Test 25%  December 2
Class attendance and participation 10%

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:
You will be evaluated on your regular attendance at class, your preparation for class (i.e.
evidence of having read the required material), and your participation in class and group
discussions. If you attend almost all the classes and group discussions but do not contribute to
class discussion you will receive a mark of 7 out of 10. The other 3 marks will be gained through
your thoughtful and regular contributions to class discussion.
LATE POLICY:
Assignments are due on the dates assigned above. Extensions may be granted for medical reasons; please provide a doctor's note. If you have personal problems, please speak with me, preferably in advance.

ON-LINE RESOURCES:
Some on-line resources you may find useful are the following:
Letters of Jane Austen: http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/brablet1.html#letter1
Victorian Web: http://www.victorianweb.org click on “Authors” to find Charlotte Brontë

PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC OFFENCES:
Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Also see “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students” http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance,
http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html

NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.
ENGL301H: Short Essay Topic

Due: October 12
Length: approximately 4 pages (double-spaced, 12 point type, 1" margins)

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to demonstrate your skill at constructing a clear argument based on the analysis of a literary text and a contemporary cultural document. As in any English essay, you must write clearly and grammatically. Your essay should have a title, a thesis, and a clear and effective organization (introduction, body, conclusion). Citations should conform to MLA format and you will need a Works Cited. You do not need to use other secondary sources for this essay.

TOPIC:
Choose one (or two) letters by Jane Austen, or one (or two) documents from one of the appendices of the Broadview edition of Mansfield Park, and analyse how this particular cultural context reveals, comments on, explicates, or may be helpfully juxtaposed to some aspect of the primary text. In other words, how does a particular contemporary document reveal some aspect of the meaning of Mansfield Park?

Because this is a brief essay you should focus your discussion on a particular aspect, scene, character, incident, etc. of the novel. You will also have to spend some time explicating what is of particular relevance in the contemporary document.

The idea of domestic fiction per se does not have to be the focus of your essay, although your essay is likely to reflect on some aspect of it.

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Bibliographic Research Assignment

Due: November 18
Length: Approximately 2-3 pages

The class on November 2 will introduce students to the MLA Bibliography and other tools for finding resources for the study of literature. In this assignment, you will use these skills to put together an annotated bibliography for the major essay you will write in this course.

Begin with a one or two sentence description of your research essay topic. Your bibliography should be presented in correct MLA format (i.e. as if for a Works Cited page). Each entry should be annotated with a 2-4 sentence description that reports on the central argument of that source and how the source contributes to your research essay. Do not use point form for your annotation.

You will need a total of at least five sources; at least two must be journal articles and at least one must be a book chapter. You may not have more than two web-based sources.

Assignments will be graded on the correctness of format, the evidence of breadth of research, the suitability of the source for your topic, and the quality of your annotations.
SCHEDULE, Fall 2004: Honour Literary Studies: ENGL301H

September 14-16: Introduction to the course
- Separate Spheres
- discussion on the novel and women writers from Virginia Woolf, Room of One’s Own and “Women and Fiction”

September 21-23, 27-30, October 5-7:
- Jane Austen, Mansfield Park ed. June Sturrock (Broadview)
- Jane Austen: Her Life and Letters ed. William Austen-Leigh, ON RESERVE
- the English country house; the urban working classes
- home and colony
- Harriet Jacobs “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” Professor Victoria Lamont, Sept 30, 12:00
- women and silence
- the church / the theatre
- “improvement”
- Mansfield Park dir. Patricia Rozema (1999)
- adaptation Professor Neil Randall TBA

October 12-14, 19-21, 26-28:
- Charlotte Brontë, Villette
- The Letters of Charlotte Brontë ed. Margaret Smith vols. 1-3. ON RESERVE
- Victorian periodicals Professor John North TBA
- women and work
- women and love
- surveillance
- Roman Catholicism & the English Imagination Professor Michael Higgins Oct 19

November 2
- Module on Research Methodology

November 4, 9-11, 16:
- Lucy Maud Montgomery, Emily of New Moon and Rilla of Ingleside
- The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery ed. Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston; vols 1-4 ON RESERVE
- literariness and popular genres
- World War I women’s diaries and letters Professor Carol Acton Nov. 4
- Canadian vs. English domesticity Professor Gary Draper Nov. 11
- war and nationhood: the “home front” Ms Mary MacPherson TBA

November 18, 23-25, 30:
- Mary Lawson, Crow Lake
- memory and trauma
- the family
- the scholarly project: “surface tension”
- rural Canada transformed
- tragedy and realism

December 2: Final Test