Honour Literary Studies: ENGL301H
 Domestic Fiction and Its Cultural Contexts, 1814-2002
 Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-11:20 HH 150 (Fall 2005)

Professor Kate Lawson  klawson@uwaterloo.ca  888-4567 ext. 3965
Hagey Hall 267  Office Hours: Tues 2:30-3:20, Thurs 12:00-12:30, or by appointment

TEXTS:
Jane Austen, Mansfield Park, ed. June Sturrock (Broadview)
Mansfield Park dir. Patricia Rozema (1999)
Charlotte Brontë, Villette (Penguin)
L.M. Montgomery, 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 lectures by the instructor and 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:

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<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short essay (3-4 pages in MLA format)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>November 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay (7-8 pages in MLA format)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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<td>Exam (exam period: Dec 8-22)</td>
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<td>In-class exercises/presentations</td>
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IN CLASS EXERCISES/PRESENTATIONS:
You will be evaluated your participation in class and group exercises, presentations, and discussions.

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: You may find some of the following on-line resources to be useful:
Jane Austen: http://www.pemberley.com
Victorian Web: http://www.victorianweb.org click on “Authors” to find Charlotte Brontë
Brontë Sisters Web: http://www.lang-nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/Bronte.html
OTHER RESOURCES:
Jane Austen: Her Life and Letters ed. William Austen-Leigh
The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery ed. Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston; vols 1-5

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.

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/infoucal/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

If you need more information on how to avoid plagiarism, please speak to me and/or consult “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors” http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html

SHORT ESSAY TOPIC
Due: October 18  Length: 3-4 pages (double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 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 perhaps 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, theme, 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.)
GRADING OF ASSIGNMENTS

The following criteria are used to assess essays and exam answers:

- Correct writing (i.e. no errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation)
- Effective writing (i.e. writing that is articulate, coherent, unified, etc.)
- A clear, persuasive, original and worthwhile argument—a thesis—, as opposed to simple description, or "re-telling the story"
- Clear and effective organization of the material
- An understanding of the nature of the assignment; for a test or exam, answering the question
- A demonstrated understanding of the primary text(s)
- The judicious use of quotations from the primary text(s) to make your argument
- Sensitivity to the nuances of language (e.g. metaphor, simile, alliteration, rhyme, rhythm, personification, allusion, patterning, etc.) in the primary texts
- The appropriate use of secondary materials to assist your argument (if required)
- Essays presented in MLA format

GRADES:
A/A+ Exceptional work with regard to style, originality and sophistication of argument, depth and breadth of reading.
A- Excellence in argument, writing, organization. An original approach to the topic.
B+ Superior understanding and mastery of the material. Very effective presentation.
B A thorough and firm grasp of the material. Good writing skills.
B- A clear if unsophisticated argument. Acceptable writing skills.
C+ Competence and understanding of the material. Writing skills often need attention.
C Adequate understanding of the material. Writing skills usually need attention.
C- Marginal work with respect to understanding, presentation and writing skills
D Familiarity with material but inadequate understanding, presentation, and writing skills
F Failure

*BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

Due: November 17 Length: Approximately 2-3 pages

You will prepare an annotated bibliography for the major research essay you will write in this course. You will demonstrate your skill in using the library catalogue, the MLA Bibliography, and other tools for finding resources for the critical study of literature.

Begin with a two or three 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 may contribute to your research essay. Use sentences not 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. While you may find the journal articles on line, you may not have more than two other 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.

I recommend you look at the website Research Skills for English Studies (http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rse/RSEShome.html) for further information about scholarly skills.
SCHEDULE, Fall 2005: Honour Literary Studies: ENGL301H

September 13: Introduction to the course
- Separate Spheres
- what is domestic fiction?

September 15, 20-22, 27-29, October 4-6:
- Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* ed. June Sturrock (Broadview)
- the English country house; the urban working classes; home and colony
- “Why I like Jane Austen”  Professor Fraser Easton, Sept __
- women and silence
- the church / the theatre
- “improvement”
- *Mansfield Park* dir. Patricia Rozema (1999)  tentatively September 29, October 4
- Professor Neil Randall  Oct 6
- Film adaptation theory

October 11-13, 18-20, 25-27:
- Charlotte Bronté, *Villette*
- women and work
- women and love
- surveillance
- Roman Catholicism & the English Imagination  Professor Michael Higgins Oct 18

November 1-3, 8-10:
- Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Rilla of Ingleside*
- literariness and popular genres
- Canadian vs. English domesticity
- war and nationhood: the “home front”  Professor Gary Draper Nov __

November 15-17, 22-24, 29
- Mary Lawson, *Crow Lake*
- memory and trauma
- the family
- the scholarly project: “surface tension”
- rural Canada transformed
- tragedy and realism

December 1: Course wrap-up