Course Information Sheet

Purpose of Course

In this course, we will examine representative British, American, and Canadian novels of the twentieth century in an attempt to reach a better understanding of some of the dominant characteristics of the modern novel. We will look at both what the novelists want to portray in their novels and the techniques used in achieving or attempting to achieve the desired ends.

TEXTS

(N.B. Novels will be discussed in order listed below.)

Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim (Norton Critical)
Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway (Harcourt Brace)
William Faulkner, Light in August (Random House)
John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath (Penguin)
John Fowles, The French Lieutenant’s Woman (NAL)
Timothy Findley, Famous Last Words (Penguin)

Requirements

1) One essay (not necessarily a research paper), approximately 1800 to 2500 words in length, on an approved topic. Essays are due Monday, March 19, 1990. Late papers will be penalized unless you ask for and are granted an extension by me. Essay worth 25% of final grade.

2) One midterm exam (on Lord Jim, Mrs. Dalloway, and relevant theoretical and historical material). Midterm worth 25% of final grade.

3) One final exam (3 hours) as scheduled by the scheduling office. The exam will concentrate on material covered after Mrs. Dalloway. Exam worth 50% of final grade.

Office Hours

Office: HH 246 Office phone: Ext. 2124
Office Hours: 1:00 - 1:20 WF
3:30 WF
Other hours by chance or by appointment.
SCHEDULE

W  3 JAN  General intro.  
F  5 JAN  Lord Jim

M  8 JAN  Heroes and protagonists; impressionism
W 10 JAN  Shifts in point of view; the importance of
F 12 JAN  Marlow

M 15 JAN  Questioning of character, of self-knowledge
W 17 JAN  "One of us"
F 19 JAN  Marlow’s split narratives

M 22 JAN  Mrs. Dalloway
W 24 JAN  Stream of consciousness & the interior monologue
F 26 JAN

M 29 JAN  Literary doubles; Woolf’s tunneling process
W 31 JAN  Love, religion, and psychiatry
F  2 FEB  MIDTERM

M  5 FEB  Light in August
W  7 FEB  Present tense in narratives
F  9 FEB  Unconscious knowing & memory

M 12 FEB  Joe Christmas as a Christ figure
W 14 FEB  Women, sex, & blackness
F 16 FEB  The Grapes of Wrath

[FEB 19 - 23, STUDY WEEK]

M 26 FEB  Social protest; historical basis
W 28 FEB  Transformation of the Joab family
F  2 MAR  Rhetorical devices

M  5 MAR  The French Lieutenant’s Woman
W  7 MAR  Metafiction
F  9 MAR  Possibility of freedom within fiction

M 12 MAR  Existentialism
W 14 MAR  Variations on open endings
F 16 MAR  Famous Last Words

M 19 MAR  ESSAYS DUE
W 21 MAR  Historical fiction
F 23 MAR

M 26 MAR  Mauberley & Ezra Pound
W 28 MAR  History as fiction and fiction as history
F 30 MAR