ENGLISH 460A

BRITISH LITERATURE, 1885-1917

HH 139

Instructor: Paul Kreller
Office: HH 245
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs.
10:00-11:30

Tues. & Thurs. 1:00-2:30
Telephone: (H) 669-2421
(O) 888-4567 ex. 2713
E-mail: pkreller@golden.net

************************************************

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the past, the period of British literature from 1885 to 1917 has suffered from its image as a "time of transition" between more important and innovative cultural eras. On the one hand, it has been described as nothing more than a decadent echo of Romanticism; on the other, it has been seen as the feeble, misdirected foreshadowings of Modernism. In fact, however, these 30-odd years witnessed a newly politicized and organized women's movement; a drastic shift in people's conceptions of British imperialism; major developments in sciences, such as psychoanalysis; post-Darwinian religious scepticism; new attitudes towards war and duty; the commodification of beauty; and developments in visual mechanization, such as photography and film. All these were both influences on and topics of literature.

While noting the ways in which the literature of this period overlaps with Romanticism and Modernism, this course focuses on the period's unique aesthetic, philosophical, and socio-political views. We will consider developments in the novel, short story, poetry, and drama in relation to various cultural and political issues, including the suffragette movement, the rise of the "New Woman," ethnicity and Otherness, conflicts of imperialism, gender, commodity culture, war, and the politics of aesthetics.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To give you practice and training in reading and interpreting works of literature, with particular emphasis on their cultural and historical background.
2. To give you practice in scholarly research and in the critical analysis of individual works of literature, as well as the comparative analysis of several works.
3. To give you some practice presenting your ideas orally.
4. To help you write more effectively.
5. To give you some enjoyment reading (I hope!).
15. Mansfield: *In a German Pension* (1911).
17. West: "Indissoluble Matrimony" (Reading Package).

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

One or two short (5-minute) presentations will account for 10% of the final grade. The aim of these presentations is to stimulate discussion.

An annotated bibliography will account for 15% of the final grade. This bibliography will form the basis of your essay.

One essay of approximately 10 double-spaced, typewritten pages (2500 words) will account for 35% of the final grade. This essay will involve research.

One three-hour final exam will account for the remaining 40% of the final grade.

Class participation will affect the final grade positively (up to 5%). There may be some deduction of marks of marks (up to 5%) if your attendance is noticeably irregular.

*(Note also: One number grade (1%) may be subtracted for each day that a paper is late, unless an extension has been granted in advance.)*

**************************************************
ENGLISH 460A: ESSAY INFORMATION

Your essay topic should deal with at least one of the major works on the syllabus (Major Barbara, In a German Pension, and/or any of the novels). It will be a research paper. I will suggest possible approaches in class, but feel free to make your own suggestions.

The writing process will involve three stages, as follows.

1. **Topic Proposal, due Tuesday, October 12, 1999.**

2. **Annotated Bibliography, due Thursday, November 4, 1999. This bibliography will be worth 15% of the final grade and includes three components:**

   **Thesis paragraph:** A one-paragraph thesis statement (from half a page to one page long), much like the introductory paragraph to your final essay. Your thesis should be specific and innovative. The ways in which your argument differs from and builds upon other scholars' works should be apparent. This component must follow MLA style rules.

   **Bibliography:** A list of 10 articles, essays in anthologies, chapters in books (do not use the book more than once in your bibliography), that address either your primary text(s) or your theoretical approach. Preferably, the works should have been published within the last ten years. If you wish, you may also include works from the period itself (e.g., historical documents, contemporary reviews, etc.). This component must follow MLA style rules.

   **Annotated bibliography:** Paragraph-long annotations for the four articles from your bibliography which you, at this point in time, feel will be most important to your own essay. While you should summarize the critics' arguments, it is more important that you note specifically the ways in which their work relates to and/or differs from your own intended argument. It is useful to note whether you disagree with any aspects of their arguments.

3. **Final essay, due November 25, 1999. This essay should be approximately 10 double-spaced, typewritten pages (2500 words) and should follow MLA style rules. It will be marked for content, organization, style and correctness. It will be worth 35% of the final grade.**