ENGLISH 460A: BRITISH LITERATURE 1885-1918
Fall 2011, Section 01, 10:30-11:20, MWF, DWE 3519

Murray McArthur
HH264, 519 885 1211, ext. 32759
mmcarthu@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Office hours: MW 11:30-12:30

Course Syllabus:

A. Course Description and Objectives:

A study of the Early Modernist period, English 460A spans the last decade and a half of the Victorian Era (1885-1901), the Edwardian decade (1901-1910), and the decade before, during, and immediately after World War I (1914-1918). Straddling the end of the Nineteenth and the beginning of the Twentieth Centuries, these three or four decades created and determined so much of the course of the modern world as we experience it at the beginning of the Twenty-First Century. The issues of nationalism, colonialism, empire, globalization, terrorism, technology, environment, gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity emerged in their modern and still contemporary forms of crisis and conflict in this period. The clash of European nation-states (The United Kingdom and Germany principally), the use of terror as a political and cultural tool (both anarchist and state-sponsored), the violent and creative decolonization of empire (in Ireland principally), the assertion by women of their rights and existence as equals (in both the political sphere as universal suffrage and in the private sphere of the family), all these and the other forms of related crisis characterize this period and give form to its artistic expressions. A major objective of this course is to interpret how these crises are both reflected and represented in the major literary genres of this Early Modernist period, specifically (and in the order of the course curriculum) the modern or polyphonic novel (Conrad, Forster), the intensive form of the modern lyric (Hopkins, Yeats), the vernacular drama (Synge), and the new genre combining narrative polyphony and lyric intensity, the short story (Joyce, Mansfield).

B. Required Texts:

Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Selected Poetry* (Oxford)
James Joyce, *Dubliners* (Oxford).
W. B. Yeats, *Selected Poems* (Faber & Faber). [Photocopies]
C. Class and Reading Schedule:

September:

Week 1:
12: Introduction
14-16: Conrad, *The Secret Agent*

Week 2:
19-21-23: *The Secret Agent*

Week 3:
26-28-30: Forster, *Howards End*

October:

Week 4:
3: *Howards End*
5: **Midterm #1: the novel**
7: Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur,” “As kingfishers catch fire”

Week 5:
10: Thanksgiving
12: “The Windhover,” “Pied Beauty”
14: “Hurrahing in Harvest,” “Carrion Comfort”

Week 6:
17: “Spelt from Sybil’s Leaves”
19: Yeats: [“To the Rose Upon the Rood of Time,” “The Two Trees,”] “To Ireland in the Coming Times”
21: “September 1913,” “Easter, 1916”

Week 7:
24: “The Second Coming”
26: “Leda and the Swan,” [“A Prayer for My Daughter”]
28: “Sailing to Byzantium,” “Byzantium”

Week 8:
31: **Midterm #2: poetry**
November:

2-4: Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*

Week 9:
7: *The Playboy*
9: Joyce, “The Sisters”
11: “Eveline”

Week 10:
14: “Clay”
16: “Counterparts”
18: “The Dead”

Week 11:
21: “The Dead”
23: Mansfield, “Prelude”
25: “Prelude”

Week 12:
28: “At the Bay”
30: “At the Bay”

December:

2: “The Garden Party” **Research essay due.**

Week 13:

**D. Assignments and Grading:**

- Mid-term #1: 15%; Oct. 5
- Mid-term #2: 15%; Oct. 31
- Research essay: 30%; due Dec. 2
- Final examination: 40%

**Mid-terms:** Time: 50 minutes. Format: in-class tests requiring one essay discussing both novels and both poets in response to one of two questions. #1 (the novel), October 5; #2 (poetry), October 31. Worth: 15% each.

**Research essay:** Format: a research essay of 8-10 typed, double-spaced pages (2000-2500 words), addressing two authors on the course. The research will involve both a close reading of
the primary texts of the two authors and the consultation of a limited number of refereed secondary sources. Written instructions on the assignment, the research, and topic questions will be circulated immediately after the second mid-term. MLA system of citation required. Due: December 2. Worth: 30%. Essays will be submitted in an attached Word document to my email by the end of the due date.

**Final examination.** Time: two hours, thirty minutes. Format: two short essays based on identification and discussion of the significance of passages from four texts on the course (worth 25% each) and one longer essay in response to one of three questions on themes central to the course (worth 50%). Worth: 40%.

**Absentee policy:** An absence from a mid-term or the final examination will require a doctor’s or other health care professional’s documentation in the case of illness. Any other extraordinary circumstances will also require documentation. Only under these circumstances can an alternative examination be scheduled.

**Notices:**

**Attendance and participation:**
Attendance at all classes and participation in discussion is expected of all students. To succeed fully in the course, students will have to participate in this process. **In order to participate, you must have the assigned text with you in class.**

**Late penalties:**
Essay assignments are due on the due date. All extensions must be arranged with me before the due date. Extensions longer than five days (Saturday and Sunday count as “days”) will require documentation. A penalty of 2% per day will be taken for late assignments.

**Note on plagiarism:**

The Faculty of Arts requires that the following statement on the avoidance of academic offences, including plagiarism, be included on all Arts course outlines:

**Academic Integrity:**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm
Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

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.