ENGLISH 460A: BRITISH LITERATURE 1885-1918
Winter 2008, Section 01, 10:30-11:20, MWF, AL124

Course Syllabus:

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A. Course Description and Objectives:

A study of the early Modernist period, English 460A spans the last sixteen years of the Victorian Era (1885-1901), the ten years of the Edwardian decade (1901-1910), and the years before (1910-1914) and of World War I (1914-1918). Straddling the end of the Nineteenth and the beginning of the Twentieth Centuries, these thirty-three years 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 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 (Great Britain 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, (Oxford)
James Joyce, Dubliners (Oxford).
Katherine Mansfield, Selected Stories (Oxford).
World War One British Poets (Dover Thrift).
W. B. Yeats, Selections (Courseworks).
C. Class and Reading Schedule:

January:

Week one:
7: Introduction
9-11: Conrad, *The Secret Agent*

Week two:
14: No class
16-18: *The Secret Agent*

Week three:
21-32-25: Forster, *Howards End*

Week 4:
28: “ ”
30: Midterm #1: the novel

February:

1: Hopkins, “God’s Grandeur,” “As kingfishers catch fire”

Week 5:
4: “The Windhover,” “Pied Beauty”
6: “Hurrahing in Harvest,” “Carrion Comfort”
8: “Spelt from Sybil’s Leaves,” “That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire”

Week 6:
11: Yeats: “To the Rose Upon the Rood of Time,” “The Two Trees,” “To Ireland in the Coming Times”

Reading Week: 18-22

Week 7:
25: “Sailing to Byzantium”
27: “Byzantium”
29: Midterm #2: poetry

March:
Week 8:
3-5-7: Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*

Week 9:
10: Joyce, “The Sisters”
12: “Eveline”
14: “Clay”

Week 10:
17: “Counterparts”
19: “The Dead”
21: “The Dead”

Week 11:
24: Mansfield, “Prelude”
26: “Prelude”
28: “At the Bay”

Week 12:
31: “At the Bay”

April:
2: “The Garden Party”
4: World War One Poets. **Research essay due.**

7: Review

D. Assignments and Grading:

1. Mid-term examinations: Time: 50 minutes. Format: one essay in answer to one of two questions. #1 (the novel), January 28, Worth: 10%; #2 (poetry), February 29, Worth: 10%.

2. Short essay. Due: February 15, Worth: 15%, Length: 4-5 typed, double-spaced pages (1000-1250 words). Topics to be assigned. MLA system of citation required.

3. Research essay. Due: April 4, Worth: 30%. Length: 8-10 typed, double-spaced pages (2000-2500 words). Topics to be assigned or at student’s choice and instructor’s agreement. MLA system of citation required.

4. Final examination. Time: two hours, thirty minutes. Format: two short essays based on
identification and discussion of passages from texts on course and one longer essay on themes central to the course. Worth: 35%.

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. Examinations will be written on the assigned date. An absence from an 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.

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:

“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 TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.”

Note: On November 18/02, Senate passed a motion that all course outlines also contain the following reference to the student’s right to grieve: “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/infoucal/Policies/policy70.html.”

For guidance on avoiding plagiarism and other academic offences, please consult the Arts Faculty Web page, “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors” (http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html).