

EL 402.02 Modern Novel, Spring 2024

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Class hours: WFF 234, TB 415 TB 415 TB415

Office hours: WF 35 or by appointment

Syllabus

(subject to minor changes)

Course description:

The course focuses on the characteristics of novels from the end of the 19th to the mid-20th century, generally regarded as the modernist period in literature. The selected novels will be studied in terms of their representation of the social and cultural changes occurring in modern society, with special focus on the individual's resistance to and transcendence of social norms, and a new sense of reality originating in individual consciousness, as especially manifested in the interior monologues and the stream-of-consciousness technique employed in the novels, which not only undermine traditional conceptions of time, space, and subjectivity, but also the conventional boundaries of the genre itself, both in content and form. The implications of this new conception of reality and aesthetics with respect to colonial and early capitalist enterprises leading to shifts in race, class and gender relations, and to newly emerging identities in rural and urban contexts, will constitute some of the important aspects of discussion.

Course requirements:**Preparation:**

You must come to class having read the particular material assigned for each particular day of class, as indicated in the schedule.

In addition, you must consult academic books and articles available online or in print in the library to gain a critical perspective from which you can discuss the related issues that constitute the focus of the novels under consideration.

You must **start research for your term paper as early as possible** so that you can develop a clear argument and envision the progress of your paper towards a conclusion.

In-class performance:

Regular participation in class (discussions; (pop-)quizzes) is required. Not to attend classes will automatically lower your participation grade.

Forum posts:

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to post comments on 4 Forums on a certain topic or question. 3 best posts (including original posts and high-quality responses to a post by a classmate) will count towards your Forum grade at the end of the semester.

Each of your posts must consist of one or two coherent, informative, explanatory, but still concise paragraphs (200-250 words in total; slightly more or less is fine) with a concrete argument/idea supported by one or two specific references to the text(s) in question.

You must read other students' comments before you post yours, in order to avoid repetitions. If you cannot come up with an original idea, you may prefer to respond to other students' posts, but only with a significant contribution (an additional supporting idea or example, or an objection supported by textual evidence).

Please remember that there is absolutely no room for irrelevant or redundant information or words in original or additional comments. Any information that is not directly relevant to will only reduce the quality of your comment, waste the time of your fellow students and, of course, lower your grade.

Midterm Exam:

All students must take the midterm exam.

Term paper:

You must start doing research for an original term paper as soon as we finish discussion on the first novel in our reading list and some critical texts on it.

Your term paper must focus on a modern novel (from 1900 to 1970) of your choice, which lends itself to a fruitful discussion in the framework of our course, but is not included in our syllabus. You can consult me about novels that you find intriguing and about possible topics that you would like to focus on, and I can make some suggestions in accordance with your interests.

I advise that you speak with me before or soon after the midterm exam. Please try to come up with at least two possible topics (works) to write on, so that we can choose the best one, or the one that has not been chosen by another student and already approved by me. The topics of the students must not overlap. Therefore, I urge you to speak with me as early as possible.

Your term paper must consist of 9-10 double-spaced pages (12 font; Times New Roman; MLA style).

While researching and reflecting upon your subject, you will consult some scholarly articles. Please mark those that are of primary interest to you, since you might (probably will) include them in your **annotated bibliography**.

Please be sure to meet the deadlines for the submission of **an abstract** including a working title (the abstract presenting **a solid framing argument** encompassing the primary text(s) that you will study, as well as its/their dialogue with critical texts/theories you will use in your paper); **an annotated bibliography** (on 3 or more academic sources that are directly relevant to your discussion), and **an outline** (one that explains, preferably in full sentences, rather than (key)words, how you will organize your paper; in other words, your main argument/thesis statement and the sub-arguments/topic sentences, as well as the role of the critical/theoretical/secondary sources in those contexts).

You will be graded on the basis of all of the above. Further guidelines and links about each stage of the process and the format will be provided on Moodle. All materials for the term paper must be submitted as **Turnitin** assignments on Moodle.

Important warning about academic dishonesty! Any form of academic dishonesty will automatically lower your grade to F and probably also lead to disciplinary action.

Assessment:

Midterm exam	25 %
Class participation (including very short (pop-) quizzes)	20 %
Forums	15 %
Term paper (Title and Abstract 5%; Revised Abstract, Outline, Annotated Bibliography 15%; Submitted Term Paper 20% + 20 % = 40 %)	40 %

Reading List:

- Week 1: Introduction
- Week 2-4: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- Week 4-6: James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- Week 8-10: William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
- Week 11-13: Doris Lessing, *Briefing for a Descent into Hell*

Course Plan, Schedule of Readings:

- Week 1: Introduction to the Modern Novel
(14 and 16 Feb.)
- Week 2: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad, Part I-II
(21 and 23 Feb.)
- Week 3: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad, Part II-III
(28 Feb. and 1 March)
- Week 4: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad, Part II-III
(6 March and 8 March) *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce, Ch. 1-2
- Week 5: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce, Ch. 3-4
(13 March and 15 March)
- Week 6: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce, Ch. 5
(20 March and 22 March)
- Week 7: Review and **MIDTERM**
(27 March and 29 March)
- Week 8: *As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner
(3 Apr. and 5 April)

HOLIDAY WEEK

- Week 9: *As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner
(17 Apr. and 19 Apr.) **ABSTRACTS due April 15, 23:45 (via Turnitin, Moodle)**
- Week 10: *As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner
(Apr. 24 and Apr. 26)
- Week 11: *Briefing for a Descent into Hell*, Doris Lessing
(May 3) **Revised Abstract, Outline, and Annotated Bibliography due May 5, 23:45 (via Turnitin, Moodle)**
- Week 12: *Briefing for a Descent into Hell*, Doris Lessing
(May 8 and May 10)
- Week 13: *Briefing for a Descent into Hell*, Doris Lessing
(May 15 and May 17)