

ENGL 106 Introduction to Literary Forms: the Novel

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***Please note that this syllabus is a draft – a few critical readings remain undecided, as well as the precise dates that the response papers will be due.**

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the narrative form of the novel. Our goals will be to:

- Identify the factors that shaped the emergence of the novel as a genre
- Follow its development in its Victorian, Modernist and post-colonial incarnations
- Survey the main critical and theoretical approaches that have characterized the study of the form

Throughout, we will pause to think about the novel's formal dimensions (such as the use of different narrative points of view, reliable vs. unreliable narrators and techniques like stream-of-consciousness) and its ideological commitments (such as the centrality of individual experience or the development of realistic representation).

Requirements

Attendance and Participation*	%10
Response Papers**	%30
Midterm Exam	%30
Final Exam	%30

* Our work in this course will be developed through classroom exercises, discussions and lectures, so your presence and active participation is crucial. Active participation means that you have completed and reflected on the assigned reading for the day, that you have the day's texts, your notebook and other materials with you and that you are an active listener to your classmates and share your own ideas with the group.

Attendance is mandatory: if you attend less than %75 of the total class hours, you will automatically fail the course.

The Response Papers will vary in length and objective and will be attached to specific points in the semester. **Precise details TBA.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Introduction

Wed, Feb. 8

Introduction

Fri, Feb. 10

Critical Readings TBA (I. Watt or M. McKeon)

Week 2

Forming the Self: The Bildungsroman

Wed, Feb. 15

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Chapters 1-10)

Fri, Feb. 17 cont.

Week 3

Wed, Feb. 22 cont. (Chapters 11-26)
Fri, Feb. 24 cont.

Week 4

Wed, Mar. 1 cont. (Chapters 27-38)
Fri, Mar. 3 cont.

Week 5

Wed, Mar. 8 Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (Pgs TBA)
Fri, Mar. 10 cont.

Week 6

Wed, Mar. 15 cont.
Fri, Mar. 17 cont.

Week 7

Wed, Mar. 22 Franco Moretti, *The Way of the World* (Excerpt)
Joseph Slaughter, *Human Rights Inc.* (Excerpt)
Fri, Mar. 24 Moretti & Slaughter cont.

Week 8

Dissolving the Self: The Victorians vs. the Moderns

Wed, Mar. 29 Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (Vol. 1, Ch. 1-4)
Fri, Mar. 31 cont. (Ch. 5-10)

Week 9

Wed, Apr. 5 cont. (Ch. 11-14)
Fri, Apr. 7 cont. (Vol. 1, Ch. 1-7)

Week 10

Wed, Apr. 12 cont. (Ch. 8-13)
Fri, Apr. 14 cont. (Ch. 14-20)

--- Spring Break ---

Week 12

Wed, Apr. 26 Nancy Armstrong, *Desire & Domestic Fiction* (Excerpt)
Fri, Apr. 28 **Critical Readings TBA (G. Lukacs or J. Frank)**

Week 13

Wed, May 3
Fri, May 5

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (pg. 3-41)
cont. (pg. 41-80)

Week 14

Wed, May 10
Fri, May. 12

cont. (pg. 80-128)
cont. (pg. 128-165)