

English 474 Studies in the English Novel

MWF 12-1 Evans 351

Dr. Tracy Bilsing

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Office hours: MWF 11-12, 1-2; MW 11-12 only; others by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed around English novels which are linked culturally and which show an evolution of not only form, but content as well. We will discuss the novels with respect to their cultural commentary and as artifacts of 20th century as their publication dates span the century (1901-1985)

Course objectives:

- *Strengthen analytical reading skills
- *Strengthen understanding and implementation of literary analysis in student's writing
- *Investigation of literature as cultural artifact
- *Understanding the evolution of the novel as a modern form

Required texts:

Kim by Rudyard Kipling
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
Lolly Willowes by Sylvia Townsend Warner
Oranges are not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson
(current MLA handbook is recommended)

Required materials:

“blue books” for exams
Note taking materials and text

Grade distribution:

Paper 50%
Micro themes 25%
Exams 25%

Course requirements:

6 micro themes (instructions to follow)
1 semester paper 12-15 pages (instructions to follow)
Two exams including the final

Attendance:

I expect you to attend every class. Attendance will be taken into consideration in final computation of your semester grade. If absences do occur, the following rules will apply:

1. A student is allowed **four** absences a semester (for whatever reason) without penalty. **More than four*** absences **will adversely affect** the student's semester average.
 - a. Absence on the day an assignment is due does not exempt the student from fulfilling the assignment. It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignment was made during the absence and complete it.
 - b. Absence on the day a research project is due does not exempt the student from fulfilling that assignment. **I do not accept late papers.**
 - c. Absence on exam days (without prior notification) can result in failure of the course. **There will be no make-up exams given.**
2. If a student misses fifteen minutes of class, he/she will be considered absent. If a student comes in tardy and roll has been taken, it is up to the student to inform the professor of his/her presence in class immediately following class.

*Should an unforeseen situation keep you out of class for an extended period of time, you **must** notify the office of the Dean of Student Life as soon as possible, and the office will formally notify the instructor of the absence(s)

Classroom policy:

1. The University code of conduct can be found at the following link.
<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>
2. Bring appropriate material to class every day. **The text of the day's reading should be with you at each meeting** along with note-taking and/or testing materials.
3. Please do not bring food into the classroom. Drinks are ok if disposed of properly.
4. Please **turn off/ silence/ put away** all **cell phones** or **beepers** during class time.
5. No **laptops/tape recorders** will be allowed during class time without prior permission from the instructor and/or formal notification that the device is necessary to the student's academic welfare (see Students with Disabilities Policy below).
6. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.
7. Except in cases of emergency, leaving the classroom during class time is considered rude and inappropriate and will not be tolerated. Only when class is dismissed by the professor should students leave the room. In a special situation where a student needs to leave early on a particular day, he/she should discuss the matter with the professor before class.
8. I reserve the right to invite a student to leave the classroom should his/her behavior warrant it.

Teaching evaluation:

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Writing enhanced credit:

This course is designated writing-enhanced. According to Sam Houston State University, a student must take at least six courses that carry the designation writing-enhanced. The official definition of a writing-enhanced course is one in which 50% or more of the grade is based on written assignments. In this course, more than 50% of your semester grade is based directly on your writing.

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:

Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html