

## **English 201: Introduction to Modernist Literature**

**Value:** 1.5 Units

**Duration:** Jan.-April 2017

**Class Meetings:** M/W/TH 2:30-3:20, MAC D116

**Office Hours:** M/TH 3:30-4:30

**Instructor:** Tim Personn

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### **Description:**

This course will introduce students to literary modernism through select novels, short stories, and poetry. Its emphasis will be on the revolutions in aesthetic form and the social, philosophical, and cultural developments that marked the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Considerable emphasis will be placed on topics such as irony, authenticity, uncertainty, history, and identity.

### **Texts:**

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness and Other Tales* (Oxford World's Classics)

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (Norton Critical Edition)

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (Scribner)

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Harcourt)

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Harper Perennial)

Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts* (New Directions)

The short stories, poems, and essays to be covered can be found online. I recommend printing them out for the purpose of marking them up and bringing them to class.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

\*Each student will write one essay of no more than 1500 words (6 to 6 ½ double-spaced pages). The essay will be graded both for form and content, and will be worth 30% of the final grade. Topics for the essay will be given out early in the term.

\*Over the term, each student will write 4 personal responses to major texts being discussed in class. The primary purpose of these is to ensure that students are reading texts before coming to class and thinking about what they are reading. This might also facilitate more class discussion. The responses must be typed and about 250 words in length (1 double-spaced page). This is “free writing” and will not be graded for grammar and spelling – but each response will be given a mark of “2,” “1,” or “0,” depending on my judgment of the extent to which it reflects earnest engagement with and knowledge of the text at hand. These are due in class on the due dates noted below. All in all, these add up to 40% of your final grade.

\*Each student will write a final exam based on the entire course content; it will be worth 30% of the grade.

\*For the purpose of arriving at the final exam grade and computing the final grade, I will be using the Department of English's numerical scale, which is as follows:

A+ 90-100	B+ 77-79	C+ 65-69	F 0-49
A 85-89	B 73-76	C 60-64	
A- 80-84	B- 70-72	D 50-59	

### **Important Policies**

**Policy on Late Papers:** A late essay will be penalized 5% per 24 hours after the original deadline (including weekend days) and it will not receive any comments or feedback. Papers will not be accepted if they are over a week late.

**Policy on Missing Papers/Assignments:** Students will not automatically fail or receive an "N" grade for missing a particular component of the course; however, neglecting to turn in the essay or write the final examination will seriously jeopardize a student's chance of passing.

Papers are due in class and should be handed directly to the instructor. Students who choose to leave their assignments in the instructor's mailbox or give it to a friend to hand in do so at their own risk! Students are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments! No electronic submissions.

**Policy on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is recognized by the university as a serious offense. You are guilty of plagiarism if you are presenting work done by somebody else as though it is your own. For a more detailed definition, consult the University Calendar, p. 33. Students guilty of plagiarism will be given a "0" grade on the assignment in question.

## ENGL 201: Schedule of Readings

**Week 1:** Jan. 4: Introduction

Jan. 5: Franz Kafka: "Before the Law"

**Week 2:** Jan. 9, 11, 12: Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*

**Week 3:** Jan. 16: Ezra Pound: "A Few Don'ts by an Imagiste," "In a Station of the Metro," Mina Loy: "Feminist Manifesto," H.D.: "Sea Rose"

Jan. 18: Modernist Manifestoes: In-class activity

Jan. 19: William Carlos Williams: "The Red Wheelbarrow," Wallace Stevens: "The Snow Man"

**Week 4:** Jan. 23, 25, 26: T.S. Eliot: "The Waste Land"

Response #1 (Eliot) due Monday

**Week 5:** Jan. 30: Eliot: "The Waste Land"

Feb. 1: Marianne Moore: "Poetry" (1927 Version), "A Jelly Fish"

Feb. 2: Ernest Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises*

Response #2 (Hemingway) due Thursday

**Week 6:** Feb. 6, 8, 9: Hemingway: *The Sun Also Rises*

Essay due in class, Thursday, February 9

**Reading Break: No classes Feb. 14-17**

**Week 7:** Feb. 20, 22, 23: Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*

Response #3 (Woolf) due Monday

**Week 8:** Feb. 27, March 1, 2: Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*

**Week 9:** March 6: Claude McKay: "If We Must Die"

March 8, 9: Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Response #4 (Hurston) due Wednesday

**Week 10:** March 13, 15, 16: Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

**Week 11:** March 20: Franz Kafka: "A Report to an Academy"

March 22: Franz Kafka: "In the Penal Colony"

March 23: David Foster Wallace: "Laughing with Kafka"

**Week 12:** March 27, 29, 30: Nathanael West: *Miss Lonelyhearts*

**Week 13:** April 3: Exam Prep

**Final Exam: TBA**