Fall 2005

Fathers and Daughters in Western Literary Traditions
LS 395 ENLT 395 WGS 395

Dr. Ruth Vanita

TR 9.40-11 a.m., GBB225

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Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 2-3, and by appointment.

Texts (prescribed editions required)

3. J. R. R. Tolkien trans., Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo (Del Rey, 1979)
4. William Shakespeare, King Lear (Dover Thrift)
7. Rudolf Besier, The Barretts of Wimpole Street (Dramatists Play Service, 1953)
8. Alison Bechdel, Fun Home (Mariner Books, 2007)
9. Photocopied materials; the story of Jephthah; poems by Wordsworth and Yeats

Goals
To examine and discuss how relationships between fathers and daughters have been represented in the Western literary traditions. Themes include: love, hate, sacrifice, resemblance and difference, memory, domination, choice, son-preference, adoption, illegitimacy, rape, murder, sexuality, judgment, and forgiveness.

Requirements
This course entails considerable amounts of reading (eight substantial texts), and also requires upper-level writing skills. If you feel unable to do the reading, please do not take this class. If you have not yet taken a lower-division writing class, you are probably not prepared for this class.

Students are required to
(a) attend classes regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than two absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in a zero for attendance and participation; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations must be communicated to me in person and accepted by me. Acceptable explanations include illness (backed up by a medical certificate) and emergencies such as major sickness in the family or serious weather conditions, backed up by documentation.
(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in class discussions.
(c) write a one-page reading paper for every text. Topics will be given in advance.
(d) make a five to ten-minute class presentation on one text, raising questions for discussion. Presentations must not be summaries of the texts. A sign-up sheet will be circulated. The presentation may become the basis for the final paper.
(e) take a mid-term examination.
(f) write a final paper (6-8 pages double-spaced typed).
(g) hand in a titled abstract for the paper, in advance, discuss the abstract with me during office hours, and revise it if necessary. The abstract must state your thesis and summarize your argument.
(h) Topics for papers must be decided in individual consultation with me.

Grades
The mid-term exam will be worth 25%, the final paper 20%, class attendance and participation 20%, reading papers on the texts 25%, and the presentation 10%. The final paper must be on time; late papers will not be accepted. I will be leaving the country soon after, for an international conference.

Plagiarism of any kind in any assignment will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

If you take this course to fulfill General Education requirements or for the English or Liberal Studies majors or the Women’s Studies minor, you must earn a C minus to pass; D is a failing grade.

Liberal Studies and English majors and Women’s Studies minors cannot take this class Pass/Not Pass. However, if you are not one of these, and take this class Pass/Not Pass, you need to earn at least a C minus to pass since D is not a passing grade for Pass/Not Pass students.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

Other information
On Tuesdays I have an ASCRC meeting at 2 p.m., so I cannot entertain questions after class, but on Thursdays I have office hours at 2 p.m., which is a good time to talk. Feel free to ask factual questions at appropriate times during class, or during my office hours, or just before class.

A suggestion: You have several days off this semester. It would be wise to use this time to read ahead, as this class requires quite a lot of careful reading.
Reading Schedule

This schedule is tentative. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with any changes.

Page numbers refer to the editions listed in this syllabus (see page 1) and sold in the UC bookstore. Please use these editions, so that we are all on the same page.

August 26  Introduction, and explanation of syllabus; short in-class written assignment
August 28  Read Iphigenia at Aulis, up to the Third Choral Ode
September 2  Read Iphigenia at Aulis, Third Choral Ode to the end.
September 4  Read the story of Jephthah from the Bible (photocopy) and Oedipus at Colonus, up to First Choral Ode
September 9  No class: I am on medical leave
September 11  Read Oedipus at Colonus, from First Choral Ode to Second Choral Ode
September 16  Read Oedipus at Colonus, from Second Choral Ode to the end
September 18  No class: I am on medical leave
September 23  Read Pearl
September 25  Read King Lear, Act I
September 30  Read King Lear, Act II
October 2  Read King Lear, Act III
October 7  Read King Lear, Acts IV and V
October 9  Read The Cenci, Acts I and II
October 14  Read The Cenci, Acts III and IV
October 16  Read The Cenci, Act V
October 21  Mid-term exam
October 23  Read Wordsworth sonnet and Silas Marner, chapters 1 to 7
October 28  Read *Silas Marner*, chapters 8 to 12

October 30  Read *Silas Marner*, chapters 12 to 16

November 4  Holiday: Election Day

November 6  Read *Silas Marner*, chapters 17 to end

November 11  Holiday: Veterans’ Day

November 13  Read *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, Acts I and II

November 18  Read *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, Act III. **Titled abstract due, in class**

November 20  Read Yeats, “A Prayer for my Daughter” and HD, “The Master.” **Discuss abstract with me, in office hours**

November 25  Read *Fun Home*, chapters 1 and 2. **Rewritten abstract due, if needed**

November 27  Thanksgiving

December 2  Read *Fun Home*, chapters 3, 4, 5.

December 4  Read *Fun Home*, chapters 6, 7. **Paper due, in class**