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WGSS 379L.01B: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century English Fiction

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Spring 2014

Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century English Fiction

LSH 327L LIT 379L-1B WGS 379L-1B

Dr. Vanita

TR 9.40-11.00, LA140

Office: LA 146A Email: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu Mailbox in LA101
Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 2.00-3.00, and by appointment

Texts (prescribed editions required)

1. D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers* (1913; Signet Classic)
2. Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (1920; Random House, Modern Library)
3. Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (1925; Harvest Books, Harcourt)
4. James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (1952; Dial Press)
5. Christopher Isherwood, *A Single Man* (1964; U of Minnesota Press)
6. Suniti Namjoshi, *The Conversations of Cow* (Course pack, UM bookstore)
7. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (Penguin)
8. James Joyce, "The Dead" (short story). Photocopies of this will be handed out in class

Goals

To examine how gender and sexuality are represented and explored in major twentieth-century fiction in English. Themes include: gender roles, power conflicts, gender inequality, friendship, celibacy, heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexual and transgender existence, androgyny, religion, animals, experience that is beyond gender. All of these will be examined as inflected by species, age, race, class, nationality, health, physical appearance, and intellectual capacity.

This course fulfills requirements for the Liberal Studies major, the English major, and the Women & Gender Studies option. It is also a capstone course for Liberal Studies majors.

Requirements

This course entails considerable amounts of reading, 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. More than three absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in halving your grade for attendance and class participation, and five or more absences will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an

absence. Explanations must be backed up with documentation, communicated to me in person and accepted by me.

(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in discussion;

(c) bring a thoughtful **typed** question or comment on the text to every class, use it in discussion, and hand it to me at the end of class. Attendance may be given on the basis of these questions, therefore if you are ever unable to hand in a question, it is your responsibility to tell me this and to have yourself marked present. Handwritten comments will not be accepted as the purpose of these comments is to ascertain whether you have read the text before class

(d) write two papers (3-5 pages)

(e) take all quizzes, the mid-term and the final exams, and complete any other assignments that may be given. Quizzes can be made up within the week by contacting me, but not thereafter

(f) **Check UM email regularly**, especially the day before class. I send out notifications and changes by email. UM policy forbids me to write to you on any email address other than the UM one. The best way to communicate with me is by email.

Grades

Class attendance and participation will be worth 15%, typed questions and comments 10%, quizzes 15%, the mid-term exam 20%, the final exam 20% and the two papers 10% each.

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

Papers and exam essays must (a) address the topic given by me (b) have a clear thesis/argument (c) support the argument with textual evidence (d) adhere to the conventions of academic writing, including correct grammar and syntax. Papers must be handed to me on the due date, in class. Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade.

Quizzes, tests and exams may contain both multiple-choice type questions and essay-type questions and are designed to test (a) knowledge of the prescribed texts (b) assimilation of information communicated in class and plenary lectures (c) writing skills (d) analytical skills.

Except in the case of proven emergency demonstrated to my satisfaction, papers handed in late, without prior permission from me, will result in a decreased grade.

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.

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.

January 28 Introduction, and explanation of syllabus

January 30 *Sons and Lovers*, 1-79

February 4 *Sons and Lovers*, 80-171

February 6 *Sons and Lovers*, 172-240

February 11 No class. I am speaking at Stanford

February 13 *Sons and Lovers*, 241-400 **Quiz** on *Sons and Lovers*

February 18 *The Age of Innocence*, 1-75

February 20 *The Age of Innocence*, 76-132

February 25 *The Age of Innocence*, 133-199

February 27 *The Age of Innocence*, 200-270 **Quiz** on *The Age of Innocence*

March 4 "The Dead"

March 6 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, 11-61

March 11 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, 63-150 **Paper due in class**

March 13 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, 151-221 **Quiz** on *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

March 18 **Mid-term exam**

March 20 *Mrs. Dalloway*, 3-48

March 25 *Mrs. Dalloway*, 48-103

March 27 *Mrs. Dalloway*, 104-151

March 29 *Mrs. Dalloway*, 151-194

March 31-April 4 Spring Break

April 8 Review **Quiz** on *Mrs. Dalloway*

April 10 Movie: *Mrs. Dalloway*

April 15 Movie continues

April 17 *A Single Man*, 9-61

April 22 *A Single Man*, 62-186

April 24 *Disgrace*, 1-87 **Quiz** on *A Single Man*

April 29 *Disgrace*, 88-195

May 1 *Disgrace*, 196-220

May 6 *The Conversations of Cow* **Quiz** on *Disgrace*

May 8 *The Conversations of Cow*, and Conclusion **Paper due in class**

Final Exam May 15, 8.00-10.00 a.m.