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Fall 9-1-2000

ENLT 223.03: British Literature in the 19th & 20th Centuries

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History of British Literature II

English 223.03
Fall 2000
TR 12:40 - 2:00
LA 102

Robert Baker
Office Hours: TR 2:30 - 5:00
and by appointment (LA 219)
Phone: 243-6973 / 721-8343

Course Description:

This course is an introductory survey of British literature from the French Revolution through the Second World War. Like any survey, this one is necessarily selective, omitting all sorts of important writers. Our path will unfold as follows: we'll spend the first part of the course reading five major romantic poets; we'll spend the second part of the course studying a few influential Victorian writers; and we'll spend the last part of the course exploring the strange weavings of four or five modernist poets and novelists.

At the end of the semester you should have a basic familiarity with a number of canonical writers, as well as a number of defining orientations, of romantic, post-romantic, and modernist British literature. I also want you to leave the course with an expanded confidence in your ability to think and write about modern poems and novels, some of which are decidedly "difficult." One of my guiding concerns in the course is that each of you, over the next four months, become not only a more perceptive reader but also a more articulate writer. I will try to convince you, if you are not already convinced, that reading well and writing well are closely intertwined arts.

This course requires a good deal of writing as well as a good deal of reading. I encourage you to meet with me throughout the semester to discuss your papers. I'll talk about the assignments in detail as we move along.

If at any point in the semester you have questions about what's going on in class, or about what's expected of you in the course, please don't hesitate to let me know. I'm around.

Course Requirements:

- > Regular attendance
- > Careful reading of all the assigned texts
- > Three short quizzes
- > Two short papers of 4-5 pages and one longer paper of 7-8 pages
- > One rewrite of one of the shorter papers
- > One exam

Required Texts:

- > *The Longman Anthology of British Literature: The Romantics*
- > Robert Browning, *My Last Duchess and Other Poems*
- > George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
- > James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- > Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
- > Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
- > Samuel Beckett, *Molloy*
- > Course Packet (including poems and essays)

Note: The Course Packet is on reserve at the Mansfield Library.

MAP OF COURSE (cp = course packet)

Note: nothing below is fixed in stone: there may be changes along the way.

THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

- T SEPT 5 Introduction: a word on the question of literary history
- R SEPT 7 Introduction: contexts of romanticism
 Edmund Burke, from *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Longman, pp. 57-66)
 Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* (Longman, pp. 67-76)
 M.H. Abrams, "English Romanticism: The Spirit of the Age" (cp 1)
- T SEPT 12 Blake, "All Religions Are One," "There Is No Natural Religion," "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell"
- R SEPT 14 Blake, "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell"
 Harold Bloom, "The Internalization of Quest Romance" (cp 2)
- T SEPT 19 Coleridge, "The Eolian Harp," "Frost at Midnight," "Dejection: An Ode," "Kubla Khan"
 Wordsworth, "Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey"
- R SEPT 21 Wordsworth, "Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey," "Resolution and Independence,"
 "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
- T SEPT 26 Wordsworth, *The Prelude*, Book I
- R SEPT 28 Wordsworth, *The Prelude*, Book I and selections from Book XI
 Shelley, "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty," "Ode to the West Wind"
- T OCT 3 Keats, the odes of 1819, "Letter to George and Thomas Keats" (Longman, pp. 795-96),
 "Letter to John Hamilton Reynolds" (Longman, pp. 798-800)
- R OCT 5 Keats, the odes of 1819, "The Fall of Hyperion: A Dream"

***** PAPER I DUE ON THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER *****

THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

- T OCT 10 Transition: post-romantic poetry and the realist novel
 Tennyson, "Ulysses" and "Tithonus" (handouts)
 NOTE: GET GOING ON ELIOT'S *THE MILL ON THE FLOSS*
- R OCT 12 Browning, "My Last Duchess," "Fra Lippo Lippi," "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came"
- T OCT 17 Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
- R OCT 19 Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
- T OCT 24 Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
- R OCT 26 Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*

THE MODERNIST PERIOD

- T OCT 31 Transition: contexts of modernism
 Yeats, "The Second Coming," "Sailing to Byzantium," "The Tower," "Among School Children,"
 "Meru," "Lapis Lazuli," "The Circus Animals' Desertion" (all in cp 9)
- R NOV 2 Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (cp 9)
 *** PAPER II DUE ON THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER ***
- T NOV 7 Election Day: No Class
- R NOV 9 Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- T NOV 14 Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- R NOV 16 Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- T NOV 21 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*
- R NOV 23 Thanksgiving: No Class

T NOV 28 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

R NOV 30 Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

***** REWRITE DUE ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER *****

T DEC 5 Beckett, *Molloy*

R DEC 7 Beckett, *Molloy*

T DEC 12 Beckett, *Molloy*

R DEC 14 Beckett, *Molloy*

Review

***** FINAL PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER *****