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WS 494.01: Twentieth-Century Lesbian and Gay Fiction

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Spring 2002

Twentieth-Century Lesbian and Gay Fiction
LS 495  ENLT 495  WS 494
Dr. Ruth Vanita

TR 9.40-11 a.m., LA138

Office: LA 146A  Tel. 243-4894  Email: rvanita@selway.umt.edu
Office Hours: TR 2-3 p.m., and by appointment.

Texts

9. Facpac, available from Denny’s Copy Stop, 2330 South Higgins (Corner of South and Higgins).

Requirements

Students are required to
(a) attend classes regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than one unexplained absence will affect your grade. Acceptable explanations are illness (backed up by a medical certificate) and emergencies such as major sickness in the family or serious weather conditions.
(b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, participate in class discussions and complete in-class assignments. This course entails considerable amounts of reading. In-class assignments will be quizzes designed to test whether or not you have completed the reading. If you feel unable to do the reading, please do not take this class.
(c) make a five to ten-minute class presentation on one or two texts, raising questions for discussion. The presentation may become the basis for one of the papers;
(d) write a short paper on any one text (4-5 pages double-spaced typed);
(e) write a long paper (8-10 pages double-spaced typed).
(f) hand in titles and abstracts of both papers, in advance, and discuss the abstracts with me during office hours. The abstract must state your thesis and summarize your argument.
(g) Topics for presentations and papers must be decided in individual consultation with me. Presentations must not be summaries of the texts. They must raise questions for discussion.
Graduate students must write longer papers – 8-10 and 12-15 pages respectively, and must demonstrate more background reading.

**Grades**

The short paper will be worth 25%, the long paper 25%, class attendance and participation 20%, in-class assignments 20% and the presentation 10%. Handing in papers late without an explanation satisfactory to me will result in a diminished 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. It is recommended that you use these editions. If, however, you use other editions, you will have to ensure that you read the correct pages.

January 29 Introduction

January 31 *Maurice*, Parts 1 and 2 (pages 9-130).

February 5 *Maurice*, Parts 3 and 4.

February 7 Extract from Marcel Proust, *Remembrance of Things Past* (facpac).

February 12 *The Well of Loneliness*, pages 11-205.


February 19 *The Well of Loneliness*, pages 313-end.

February 21 Virginia Woolf, “Moments of Being” (facpac)

February 26 *Fires*, pages 3-45. Title of short paper due, in class.

February 28 *Fires*, pages 47-end.


March 7  *A Single Man*, pages 105-end. Discuss abstract with me, during my office hours.
March 12  Martha Nussbaum, "Steerforth’s Arm" (facpac).

March 14  No class. Instead, a movie, Maurice, will be shown in the evening. Papers must be handed in to me at the screening.

March 18-22  Spring Break.

March 26  The Persian Boy, pages 3-193.


April 2  The Persian Boy, pages 290-411.

April 4  The Price of Salt.

April 9  The Price of Salt.

April 11  Zami, chapters 1-14.

April 16  Zami, chapters 15-end.

April 18  The Conversations of Cow, pages 13-76.

April 23  The Conversations of Cow, pages 79-end, and extracts from The Golden Gate (facpac). Title of paper due, in class.

April 25  “Artha” (facpac). Abstract of paper due, in class.

April 30  Funny Boy, Parts 1 and 2 (“Pigs Don’t fly” and “Radha Aunty”). Discuss abstract with me, during my office hours.

May 2  Funny Boy, Parts III and IV (“See No Evil, Hear No Evil” and “Small Choices”).

May 7  Funny Boy, Part V and Epilogue.

May 9  Conclusion. Paper due, in class.