

ENG 210: Introduction to Literary Studies

Spring, 2005

Call #: 2364
MW 2:45-4:05, HUM 109

Instructor: Bret Benjamin (bret@albany.edu)
Office: Humanities 340 (442-4054)
Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30
and by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce a range of critical approaches to the study of literature and culture, and to prepare English majors for upper-division courses where they may be expected to have a basic knowledge of theoretical approaches to literary and cultural study. Using literary criticism, and literary theory in turn, we will devote careful attention to an extended textual examination of a brief selection of poetry, drama, film, and novels.

Required Texts

- William Shakespeare, The Tempest (Washington Square Press, 0743482832)
- Salman Rushdie, The Wizard of Oz (British Film Institute, 0851703003)
- Arundhati Roy, The God of Small Things (Perennial Reprint Edition, 0060977493)
- A Photocopied course packet from Shipmates (in Stuyvesant Plaza)

All books are available at Mary Jane's Bookstore (215 Western Ave.) and the Campus Bookstore

Breakdown of Grades

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| • Paper 1 | 20% |
| • Paper 2 | 30% |
| • Final Paper | 40% |
| • Quizzes and Short Assignments | 10% |

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. After three absences, I will lower your final class grade by one third of a letter for each additional class that you miss. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. You can miss three classes, and three classes only, before your grade begins to drop. If an extenuating situation arises such as a prolonged illness or a death in the family, you should contact me immediately and your absences may be excused as long as documentation from the Undergraduate Dean's office is obtained. It is your responsibility to keep track of your own absences.

Lateness Policy

You are late to class if you arrive after I have finished calling roll. Two late arrivals will be the equivalent of one absence. If you do arrive late, see me after class to make sure I have marked you present for the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offense and, as such, instances of plagiarized materials will be dealt with harshly. Depending on the severity and the details of the case, I reserve the right to file formal disciplinary action with the University (a process that often results in suspension or expulsion) and the right to impose a grading penalty that may go so far as to issue a failing grade for the entire course. **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.**

From the University Guidelines on Scholastic Integrity:

Presenting as one's own work the work of another person (for example, the words, ideas, information, data, evidence, organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else). Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, submission of another student's work as one's own, the purchase of prepared research or completed papers or projects, and the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else. Failure to indicate accurately the extent and precise nature of one's reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly, or creative indebtedness, and the consequences for violating University regulations.

Examples of plagiarism include: failure to acknowledge the source(s) of even a few phrases, sentences, or paragraphs; failure to acknowledge a quotation or paraphrase of paragraph-length sections of a paper; failure to acknowledge the source(s) of a major idea or the source(s) for an ordering principle central to the paper's or project's structure; failure to acknowledge the source (quoted, paraphrased, or summarized) of major sections or passages in the paper or project; the unacknowledged use of several major ideas or extensive reliance on another person's data, evidence, or critical method; submitting as one's own work, work borrowed, stolen, or purchased from someone else.

Reading Schedule

Week One

1/19 Intro

Week Two

1/24 Eagleton, "What is Literature?"

1/26 Ai, "Conversation" and Yasunari Kawabata, "The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket"

Week Three

1/31 Carolyn Forché, "The Colonel" and So Chong Ju, "The Bride"

2/1 McLaughlin, "Figurative Language"

Week Four

2/7 Fish, "How to Recognize a Poem When You See One"

2/9 writing workshop

Week Five

2/14 Paper 1 Due (in class screening of *The Tempest*)

2/16 Shakespeare, *The Tempest* Acts 1-2

Week Six

2/21 (no class)

2/23 Shakespeare, *The Tempest* Acts 3-5

Week Seven

2/28 Will, "Literary Politics"; Greenblatt, "The Best Way to Kill..."; Kermode, "from Shakespeare: The Final Plays"

3/2 Barker and Hulme, "Nymphs and Readers"

Week Eight

3/7 Jehlen, "Gender"

3/9 Loomba, "from Gender, Race, Renaissance Drama"

Week Nine

3/14 writing workshop

3/16 Paper 2 Due (in class screening of *Wizard of Oz*)

Week Ten

3/21 (no class)

3/23 (no class)

Week Eleven

3/28 Rushdie, "Wizard" and "Auction"

3/30 Fiske, "Popular Culture"

Week Twelve

4/4 Benjamin, "Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"

4/6 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Chapters 1-3)

Week Thirteen

4/11 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Chapters 4-11)

4/13 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Chapters 12-21)

Week Fourteen

4/18 McClintock, "Angel of Progress"

4/20 Bakhtin, "Discourse in the Novel"

Week Fifteen

4/25 writing workshop

4/27 writing workshop

Week Sixteen

5/2 Final Papers Due