

English 177: Twentieth-century Fiction

Spring Semester 2012
Tuesday, Thursday 10:30
BBC 205
Section 1, course # 27835

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Office Hours Tuesday at noon and by appt.

TEXTS Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*, 1925
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, 1926
 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*, 1965
 Philip Roth, *The Ghost Writer*, 1979
 Haruki Murakami, *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*, 1991
 Jeanette Winterson, *Written on the Body*, 1992
 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*, 1997
 Colson Whitehead, *Sag Harbor*, 2009
 Monique Truong, *Bitter in the Mouth*, 2010

PAPERS AND EXAM

Two papers are required (see exception below). I will hand out specific assignments later, but the first paper will be a tightly focused close reading of some particular element in one of our novels, and the second will be a broader analysis of one or more novels, supported by research. Both papers must conform to current Modern Language Association style. Please, no faxed or emailed papers. Expect to write 5000+ words for the class (including the final exam).

Except in extraordinary circumstances, late papers will be penalized as follows: papers that are one day to one week late will be marked down one full letter grade (e.g. B to C); beyond one week papers will not be accepted. Any paper not turned in directly to me must be date- and time-stamped by the English Department staff. (Do not put a paper under my door.) NO INCOMPLETES except in true emergencies (surgery, yes—a cold, no).

In addition to giving me a hard copy of each paper, you must submit it within 48 hours of the due date to TurnItIn.com. Please set up an account right away if you have not done so already. I will provide a course number and password as the first due date approaches.

By prior arrangement only, advanced students with an excellent record in the major may “bundle” assignments into a single longer, more ambitious paper. See me early in the semester if you are interested in this option.

The final exam will be essay format—details to be announced.

PARTICIPATION AND QUIZZES

Participation and quizzes figure substantially into your final grade. Quizzes should not prove difficult if you have read carefully, on schedule. Quizzes may not be made up.

GRADING

Work will be graded with a “GPA” system (4.0 for an “A,” 3.7 for an “A minus,” etc.)

Paper #1 (Close reading)	20%
Paper #2 (Analysis/Research)	40%
Final Exam	20%
Participation & Quizzes	20%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of materials, and submission of downloaded essays or parts thereof all breach academic honesty. Such violations will be prosecuted following the processes and eventuating in the sanctions described by official University policies. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Sanctions range from receiving an “F” on an assignment to permanent expulsion from the University. If you have any questions whatsoever about how to document any sources you use, see me. Keep hard copies of your papers as well as all notes, rough drafts, computer files, and research materials for at least six months after the class ends. Here is the recommended greensheet statement from the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development: “Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found [online].”

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

- 1/26 First meeting: enrollment, overview, introductions.
- 1/31 *Mrs. Dalloway*, first third of novel
 2/2 *Mrs. Dalloway*, middle third of novel
- 2/7 *Mrs. Dalloway* (finish)
 2/9 *The Sun Also Rises*, Book I
- 2/14 *The Sun Also Rises*, Book II
 2/16 *The Sun Also Rises*, Book III
- 2/21 *The Crying of Lot 49*, Chapters 1-4
 2/23 *The Crying of Lot 49* (finish)
- 2/28 *The Ghost Writer*, Chapters 1 (“Maestro”) and 2 (“Nathan Dedalus”)
 3/1 *The Ghost Writer* (finish)
- 3/6 *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*, Chapters 1-14
 3/8 *Hard-Boiled*, Chapters 15-28
- 3/13 *Hard-Boiled* (finish)
 3/15 **FIRST PAPER DUE.** *Hard-Boiled*
- 3/20 *Written on the Body*, first half, up to the beginning of “The Cells, Tissues, Systems....”
 3/22 *Written on the Body* (finish)

Spring Recess

- 4/3 *The God of Small Things*, Chapters 1-5
 4/5 *The God of Small Things*, Chapters 6-11
- 4/10 *The God of Small Things* (finish)
 4/12 *The God of Small Things*
- 4/17 *Sag Harbor*, Chapters 1-3
 4/19 *Sag Harbor*, Chapters 4-6
- 4/24 *Sag Harbor* (finish)
 4/26 No class. I will be out of town on a professional trip.
- 5/1 **DRAFT OF PAPER #2 DUE** for peer response workshop. Bring 3 copies.
 5/3 *Bitter in the Mouth*, Chapters 1-14
- 5/8 *Bitter in the Mouth* (finish)
 5/10 **PAPERS DUE.** *Bitter in the Mouth*
- 5/15 Student evaluations and other rites of spring.
FINAL EXAM: MONDAY MAY 21, 9:45 to Noon