

Western University
Department of English and Writing Studies
English 2200G (001) January 2015
Dr. G. Donaldson

Course Description:

This course aims to provide students with a solid introduction to some of the key issues and debates surrounding thinking about the arts in general, and literature in particular, from Plato up to the early twentieth century. Thus, while the course readings trace something of a historical trajectory, the course also aims to come to an understanding of some of the most crucial and contentious issues throughout and across the tradition: the charge that literature is a "lie"; the question of beauty; the role of the author; gender; and so forth.

Lectures take place on Mondays from 14:30 – 15:20 and on Wednesdays from 14:30 – 16:10 in Physics & Astronomy Building - P&AB-34.

Lecture Schedule:

January:

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|--------|---|
| Week 1 | COURSE INTRODUCTION; Plato, Republic from Book 10 |
| Week 2 | Plato, <i>Republic</i> , from Book 10 |
| Week 3 | Aristotle, Poetics |
| Week 4 | Aristotle, Poetics |

February

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| Week 5 | Horace, <i>Ars Poetica</i> ; Augustine, from <i>On Christian Doctrine</i> |
| Week 6 | Dante, from <i>Letter to Can Grande</i> ; Alexander Pope, <i>An Essay on Criticism</i> ; IN CLASS TEST (Wednesday 11 th . February) |
| Week 7 | READING WEEK |
| Week 8. | David Hume, <i>Of the Standard of Taste</i> ; Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman; William Wordsworth, Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> |

March

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|---------|---|
| Week 9 | William Wordsworth, Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; Karl Marx, Selections; Matthew Arnold, <i>The Function of Criticism at the Present Time</i> |
| Week 10 | Walter Pater, from <i>Studies in the History of the Renaissance</i> ; Friedrich Nietzsche, Selections. |
| Week 11 | Sigmund Freud, <i>Creative Writers and Daydreaming</i> (handout); Sigmund Freud, from <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> ; |

Week 12 Cleanth Brooks, *The Heresy of Paraphrase*; T.S. Eliot, *Tradition and the Individual Talent*

April

Week 13 W.K. Wimsatt & Monroe Beardsley, *The Intentional Fallacy*; *The Affective Fallacy*; Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*; *REVIEW*

Assignments and Grading

| Assignment | Date | Value |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| In Class Test | Wednesday, 11 th . February 2015 | 20% |
| Essay (2,000-2,500 words) | Thursday, March 19 th . 2015 | 30% |
| Participation | | 15% |
| Exam | TBA | 35% |

Text:

The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism

Office: HUC-A302

Second Term Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:30 to 12:20; Thursdays, 13:30 to 14:20; and by appointment.

A Note on the Purpose of Office Hours: office hours are an opportunity for informed discussion outside class time.

What I expect of you:

- to have read, thought about, researched and have some views about, the issue in hand.

What you should expect of me:

- to help you develop the ideas you already have; to help you look at things in alternative ways; to make you aware of anything that is relevant that you may not have come upon in the research you have already done.

So, I cannot answer questions such as, “Is this thesis sentence OK” because in so doing I become a co-author of your work while, at the same time, discouraging you from independent, capable thought. What I can do is help you think more carefully about what you already have in mind, help you see what you do and do not know, what you intend to argue and what evidence you have to support your contentions.

Also, the office hour immediately prior to an assignment’s due date has the same number of minutes in it as do other hours. If you leave it to the last minute before an assignment is due to come to an Office Hour, there is no guarantee that others in the class have been any better organized than you and so there may be no available time. Plan accordingly.

Email: gdonalds@uwo.ca

Tel. 519-438-7224 x 238

A Note about email: I strongly encourage you to come to speak with me during Office Hours rather than sending me emails. You are at university to learn how to think. Emails will not help you do that. While you attend university, you have access to many able, educated people. It is not always so in life. Take advantage of the access you have to these educated people: choose discussion, not email.

N.B. Department of English regulations require that students independently pass both the term assignments and the final examination in order to pass the course. Accordingly, only those students whose cumulative grade for their term assignments is 50% or better will be eligible to sit the final examination.

Late Submissions

Essays are due on the date specified above. Late essays will be penalized 2% *per diem* (including weekends). Late essays receive a grade but no comments. Essays submitted more than seven (7) days after the deadline will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. To be considered for relief from these penalties students require a letter from a physician stating that you were ill on the day in question.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.