

English 221-01 and 221-02: Novel of Manners

CRN 25311/25312

Professor J. Brady
Palmer 305 (office)
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Spring, 2015

MWF: 9:00-9:50 and
11:00-11:50 a.m. in
Palmer 210

Reading List:

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Penguin)
Jane Austen, *Emma* (Penguin)
Henry James, *Washington Square* (Oxford)
Henry James, *The Aspern Papers and Other Stories* (Oxford)
Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (scanned)
William Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (Oxford)
Edith Wharton, *The Custom of the Country* (Oxford)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00-10:50, or Tuesday, Thursday, 11:00-noon,
or by appointment throughout the week.

Course Description:

This course is a study of the development of the novel of manners, as reflected in the work of Jane Austen, Henry James, William Thackeray and Edith Wharton. The novels in this course, largely traditional in structure, focus on courtship, marriage, gender, class privilege and the economic practices of the leisure class. This course has several principal goals: to introduce students to the conventions of the genre of the novel of manners and more generally of the realist novel; to consider the ways in which novelists rework, revise, and adapt their own and other novelists' work over their careers; to study influential works by major novelists, two English, two American; to consider the transatlantic influence of the English novel on American Anglophile novelists writing self-consciously in the 'great tradition'.

This course carries both F2 (Writing Intensive) and F4 (Literary Texts) credit. Members of the class will workshop samples of the first two essays, focusing on issues of revision, on improving clarity of argument, and on uses

of textual evidence in formal essay writing, in addition to more technical aspects, including punctuation and grammar.

Attendance Policy:

Late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence and any student who misses or comes late to class more than **four** times in the semester will be asked to withdraw from the course. If the accumulated absences come after the March 27th deadline for withdrawal from the course, the student will receive a zero in the 10% awarded for the in-class grade. Please see the English department policies on attendance, deadlines, intellectual honesty and plagiarism, attached to this document as an appendix, below.

Schedule:

Jan. 14	Introductory remarks
Jan. 16, 21, 23, 26, 28	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (1813)
Jan. 30, Feb. 2, 4, 6, 9, 11	<i>Emma</i> (1816)
Friday, February 13	Austen essay due, 4 pages
Feb. 16, 18, 20, 23, 25	<i>Washington Square</i> (1880)
February 27, March 2	Workshops of first essay
March 4, 6	<i>The Aspern Papers</i> (1888; NYE, 1907-09)
March 9, 11, 13	Spring Break
March 16, 18, 20	<i>The Aspern Papers</i>
March 23	"The Middle Years" (1895) (download)
Wednesday, March 25	James essay due, 5 pages
March 27, 30, April 1	<i>Vanity Fair</i> (1848)
April 3	Easter Recess
April 6, 8, 10	<i>Vanity Fair</i>

April 13	Workshop of second essay
April 15, 17	<i>Theory of the Leisure Class</i> (1899) (excerpts, download)
Friday, April 17	Thackeray essay due, 5 pages
April 20, 22, 24, 27, 29	<i>The Custom of the Country</i> (1913)
May 1	Awards Convocation
Saturday, May 2	Wharton essay due, 5 pages

Method of Evaluation:

Austen essay (4 pages)	20%
James essay (5 pages)	30%
In-class question*	10%
In-class grade	10%
Wharton or Thackeray essay (5 pages)	30%

* Each student will pose one formal question to the class during the semester, speaking from notes only. Your question should be focused, given a context, and its potential significance made clear to your classmates. The question should explore a fresh aspect of the text that you think important to our understanding of the work. Having posed your question, you will then guide class discussion.

** All late essays will be penalized by at least a letter grade.

