

English 371
Modern Fiction
Fall 2004

Prof. Shaffer
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This course will focus on the modern Bildungsroman, or novel of education, initiation, or development. The course will consider the ways in which the following nine novels engage in a "dialogue" with each other, with their times, and with conventional models of narrating lives in fiction.

TEXTS:

Bronte, Jane Eyre
Chopin, The Awakening
Dickens, Great Expectations
Forster, A Room with a View
Hardy, Jude the Obscure
Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
McGahern, The Dark
Rhys, Wide Sargasso Sea
Robinson, Housekeeping

CLASS POLICY:

Except in the case of documented illness or emergency, late essays will not be accepted for credit. Because a premium is placed on class participation and lively discussion, more than two unexcused absences during the semester will result in the lowering of your final grade. Failure to complete one or more major assignments or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade in the course. All work for this class must be done in strict compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.

REQUIREMENTS:

One (5-7-page critical) essay: 20%
One (10-14-page research) essay: 40%
Final examination: 20%
Participation, attendance, presentation, reading quizzes: 20%

All reading and writing assignments are due on the class dates listed below. Please bring the appropriate text to class each day we meet.

Aug. 25 Course Introduction

THREE VICTORIAN NOVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

27 Bronte, Jane Eyre (The "Vindication" Model)
30 Bronte

Sep. 1 Bronte
3 Bronte
6 Labor Day
8 Bronte
10 Dickens, Great Expectations (The "Education" Model)
13 Dickens,
15 Dickens

17 No Class
 20 Dickens
 22 Dickens
 24 Dickens
 *Critical Essay Due
 27 Hardy, Jude the Obscure (The "Dissolution" Model)
 29 Hardy

Oct. 1 Midterm Conferences

COMPLICATING THE SCHEME: THREE MODERN NOVELS
 OF AWAKENING

4 Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
 6 Joyce
 8 Joyce
 11 Joyce
 13 Joyce
 15 Forster, A Room with a View
 18 Fall Recess
 20 Forster
 22 Forster
 25 Forster
 27 Chopin, The Awakening
 29 Chopin

Nov. 1 Chopin
 3 Chopin

PARADOXICAL RESOLUTIONS: THREE CONTEMPORARY EXAMPLES

5 Rhys, Wide Sargasso Sea
 8 Rhys
 10 Rhys
 12 McGahern, The Dark
 15 McGahern
 *Research Essay Due
 17 Robinson, Housekeeping
 19 Robinson
 22 Robinson
 24 Thanksgiving Recess
 26 Thanksgiving Recess
 29 Robinson

Dec. 1 Seminar
 3 Seminar
 6 Seminar
 8 Seminar

*Final Examination