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
   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