

English 221-01: Novel of Manners

CRN 23280

Professor J. Brady
Palmer 305 (office)
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Spring, 2013
Palmer 211
MWF: 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Reading List:

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Penguin)
Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (Penguin)
Henry James, *Washington Square* (Penguin)
Henry James, *The Spoils of Poynton* (Penguin)
Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (Oxford)
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (Penguin)
Edith Wharton, *The Custom of the Country* (Penguin)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11:00-12:00, or by appointment over the week

Course Description:

This course is a study of the development of the novel of manners, as reflected in the work of the most important writers identified with the genre, Jane Austen, Henry James, and Edith Wharton. The novels in this course, largely traditional in structure, focus on courtship, 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; to consider the ways in which novelists rework, revise, and even undo their own work over their careers and respond in complex ways to the influence exerted on them by their precursors and contemporaries; to study influential works by major novelists, one English, two American.

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. Please see the English department policies on attendance, deadlines, intellectual honesty and plagiarism, attached to this document as an appendix, below.

Schedule:

Jan. 9	Introductory remarks
Jan. 11, 14, 16, 18, 23	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> (1813)
Jan. 25, 28, 30, Feb. 1	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (1811)
Monday, February 4	Austen essay due, 4 pages
Feb. 6, 8, 11, 13, 15	<i>Washington Square</i> (1880)
February 18, 20, 22	Workshops of first essays
Feb. 25, 27, March 1, 4, 6	<i>The Spoils of Poynton</i> (1897; 1908)
March 8	James essay due, 5 pages
March 11, 13, 15	Spring Break
March 18, 20, 22	<i>Theory of the Leisure Class</i> (1899)
March 25, 27	Workshops of second essays
March 29	Easter Recess
April 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12	<i>The House of Mirth</i> (1905)
April 15, 17, 19, 22, 24	<i>The Custom of the Country</i> (1913)
April 26	Awards Convocation
April 27	Wharton essay due, 5-6 pages

Method of Evaluation:

Austen essay (4 pages)	20%
James essay (5 pages)	30%
In-class question*	10%
In-class grade	10%
Wharton essay (5-6 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 and excessive lateness may lead to failure in the course.

