

Great Expectations: The Coming-of-Age Novel

English 380; Fall 2011; CRN 12282

Professor Shaffer; 313 Palmer; *3976; Shaffer@rhodes.edu

Palmer Hall 203; TR 12:30-1:45 pm

Office Hours: TR 1:45-3 pm and by appointment

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

Course Texts:

Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Chopin, *The Awakening*

Dickens, *Great Expectations*

Forster, *A Room with a View*

Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

McGahern, *The Dark*

Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Robinson, *Housekeeping*

Class Policy: Written work submitted late will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per 24-hour period. One unexcused absence per semester is permitted; two or more will negatively affect your final course grade. Failure to complete any major assignment 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:

Two critical essays of 5-6 pages (1500-1800 words) each: 40%

One research essay of 10-12 pages (3000-3600 words): 40%

Participation, attendance, presentation, reading quizzes: 20%

Reading and writing assignments are due on the class dates listed below. Bring the appropriate text to class each day we meet.

day	date	comment
Thursday	August 25	Course Introduction
Tuesday	30	Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
Thursday	September 1	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Tuesday	6	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Thursday	8	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Tuesday	13	Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i>
Thursday	15	<i>Great Expectations</i>
Tuesday	20	<i>Great Expectations</i>
Thursday	22	<i>Great Expectations</i> + first critical essay due
Tuesday	27	Chopin, <i>The Awakening</i>
Thursday	29	No Class

Tuesday	October 4	Midterm Conferences
Thursday	6	<i>The Awakening</i>
Tuesday	11	<i>The Awakening</i>
Thursday	13	Forster, <i>A Room with a View</i>
Tuesday	18	Fall Break
Thursday	20	<i>A Room with a View</i>
Tuesday	25	<i>A Room with a View</i> + second critical essay due
Thursday	27	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Tuesday	November 1	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Thursday	3	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Tuesday	8	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Thursday	10	McGahern, <i>The Dark</i>
Tuesday	15	Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
Thursday	17	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
Tuesday	22	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
Thursday	24	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday	29	Robinson, <i>Housekeeping</i>
Thursday	December 1	<i>Housekeeping</i>
Tuesday	6	<i>Housekeeping</i> + research essay due
Fri-Wed	9-14	Final Exam Week