

Great Expectations: The Modern Novel of Development

English 380; spring 2010; CRN 20607

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

Clough Hall 304; 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:

Behr, *The Smell of Apples*

Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Chopin, *The Awakening*

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, presentations, 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.

Thursday	January 14	Course Introduction
Tuesday	19	Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
Thursday	21	Bronte
Tuesday	26	Bronte
Thursday	28	Bronte
Tuesday	February 2	Chopin, <i>The Awakening</i>
Thursday	4	Chopin
Tuesday	9	Chopin
Thursday	11	Forster, <i>A Room with a View</i> ; First Critical Essay Due
Tuesday	16	Forster
Thursday	18	Forster

Tuesday	23	Student Conferences
Thursday	25	Joyce, <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Tuesday	March 2	Joyce
Thursday	4	Joyce
Tuesday	9	Joyce
Thursday	11	McGahern, <i>The Dark</i>
Tuesday	16	Spring Break
Thursday	18	Spring Break
Tuesday	23	McGahern; Second Critical Essay Due
Thursday	25	Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
Tuesday	30	Rhys
Thursday	April 1	Easter Break
Tuesday	6	Rhys
Thursday	8	Student Conferences
Tuesday	13	Robinson, <i>Housekeeping</i>
Thursday	15	Robinson
Tuesday	20	Robinson
Thursday	22	Behr, <i>The Smell of Apples</i>
Tuesday	27	Behr
Thursday	29	Behr; Research Essay Due
Friday	30	Classes End; Awards Convocation Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Symposium

Writing Assignment Instructions
Professor Shaffer

1. Type and double-space all essay drafts and final copies. Use one-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-point font (approximately 300 words) on each page. Staple the pages of your essay together. Include your name, my name, a paper title, and a word count on each essay.
2. Be sure that your essay has a clear and identifiable thesis.
3. Substantiate your argument with textual evidence.
4. Use the present tense and active voice in your essay whenever possible.
5. Carefully proofread your work for grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors *before* submitting it.
6. Always keep an extra copy of your essay in safe-keeping and give yourself adequate time to complete all written work. *Planning ahead will help you avoid last-minute crises (and mandatory late-work penalties).*
7. Pledge your work in full under the Rhodes Honor Code.