

English 385
The Modern Novel of Development
Spring 2001

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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 recognized 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
Ishiguro, When we were Orphans
Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
Rhys, Wide Sargasso Sea
Robinson, Housekeeping

CLASS POLICY:

Except in the case of documented illness or emergency, late examinations 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:

Two (5-7-page critical) essays: 40%
One (10-14-page research) essay: 40%
Participation, attendance, presentations: 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.

Jan. 10 Course Introduction

THREE VICTORIAN NOVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

12 Bronte, Jane Eyre (The "Vindication" Model)
15 Martin Luther King Day
17 Bronte
19 Bronte
22 Bronte
24 Bronte
26 Dickens, Great Expectations (The "Education" Model)
29 Dickens
31 Dickens

Feb. 2 Dickens

5 Dickens
7 Hardy, Jude the Obscure (The "Dissolution" Model)
9 Hardy
12 Hardy
FIRST CRITICAL ESSAY DUE

COMPLICATING THE SCHEME: THREE MODERN
NOVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

14 Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
16 Joyce
19 Joyce
21 Joyce
23 Joyce
26 Forster, A Room with a View
28 Forster

Mar. 2 Midterm Conferences
5 Spring Recess
7 Spring Recess
9 Spring Recess
12 Forster
14 Forster + film
16 Chopin, The Awakening
19 Chopin
21 Chopin
23 Chopin
SECOND CRITICAL ESSAY DUE

PARADOXICAL RESOLUTIONS: THREE CONTEMPORARY EXAMPLES

____ 26 Rhys, Wide Sargasso Sea
28 Rhys
30 Rhys

Apr. 2 Ishiguro, When we were Orphans
4 Ishiguro
6 Ishiguro
9 Robinson, Housekeeping
11 Robinson
13 Easter Recess
16 Robinson
18 Robinson + film
RESEARCH ESSAY DUE

20 Seminar
23 Seminar
25 Seminar
27 Seminar