

Survey of World Literature: 17th Century to Modern

Imagined Societies: Narratives of Social Captivity and Mobility

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LIT 2120.1464 – 117 MAT

T 8-9 (3:00-4:55) / R 9 (4:05-4:55)

Office Hours: TBA and By Appointment

Syllabus

“The first man who, having fenced off a plot of land, thought of saying ‘This is mine’ and found people simple enough to believe him was the real founder of civil society.”—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Course Description

The grand scale, mighty ambition, and horrific bloodshed of the French Revolution dramatically impacted the sociopolitical consciousness of the world literature to follow. Among the most significant outcomes are the ambiguous and clashing discourses that emerged on issues of social identity and equality in the modern state.

In our survey of European literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we will explore these paradoxical representations of society, in which individuals may be held socially captive to the limitations of their economic rank, while surrounded by a political rhetoric that values social mobility and equality in democratic communities. As we begin to sort out these complex social ideologies, we will question the relationships between historical narratives, representations in literature, and our so-called reality.

Course Objectives

Writing about literature increases our understanding of the complexities that abound in textual discourse. Complexity will be a key word as we unearth the cultural depths of literary works and discover alternative meanings in the patterns, social concerns, tensions, and themes particular to the texts we are surveying.

Our analysis of literature will always encompass a range that reaches from the local spaces of the text to the global spaces of the greater society. Your writing about literature in this class will evidence this range as you develop the skills to observe literary nuances in relation to their wider cultural, social, or political significance.

Required Texts and Online Materials

Texts available at *Goerings Book Store*, 1717 NW 1st Ave:

- Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*. Norton.
- Gustav Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*. Norton. 2nd ed.
- Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*. Bedford.
- Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*. Dover.
- Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*. Norton.
- Jean-Paul Sartre, *No Exit*. Vintage.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Rousseau's Political Writings*. Norton.

Online Materials:

- E-Learning web site, coursepack, and additional links. Service via UF. Log in at: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>.
- *Oxford English Dictionary*. Access via UF libraries. www.oed.com.
- OWL at Purdue Handbook: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

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Schedule of Assignments

Unit I: Fantasizing the Identity

- 1/8 **Introduction**
Overview of syllabus and course objectives
- 1/10 **“Your Calling Is Not Only Beggary / But Beauty as Well”**
Baudelaire, “To a Red-Haired Beggar Girl” & “Gamblers”
(*E-Learning Coursepack*)
- 1/15 **“Human Understanding Owes Much to the Passions”**
Rousseau, ‘First Part’ of “Discourse on Inequality”
Norton Backgrounds: Boswell & Johnson
- 1/17 **“An Assemblage of Unnatural Men and Artificial Passions”**
Rousseau, ‘Second Part’ of “Discourse on Inequality”

Studies in the Novel: Gustav Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*

- 1/22 **“She Longed for Lives of Adventure, for Masked Balls, for Shameless Pleasures”**
Madame Bovary Part 1
- 1/24 **“An Indomitable Moral Vision of Her Own”**
Norton Criticism: Jane Matlock, *Censoring the Realist Gaze*
Norton Responses: Zola, from *The Naturalist Novel*

- 1/29 **“Doesn't This Conspiracy of Society Revolt You?”**
Madame Bovary Part 2

- 1/31 **Unit One: First Draft due**
Post to e-Learning Discussion Board by 3pm

- 2/5 **“These Vague Ecstasies of Imaginary Love”**
Madame Bovary Part 3

- 2/7 **Unit One: Second Draft Due + Peer Review**
Post to e-Learning Discussion Board by 3pm

- 2/12 **Unit One: Final Draft Due**
Post to e-Learning Assignments by 3pm

Unit II: Inventing the Society

- 2/14 **“Oh, You Blind, Inexperienced Creature!”**
Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*

Studies in the Novel: Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*

- 2/19 **“One by One, His Diamonds Disappeared”**
Père Goriot 1: A Private Boardinghouse
Norton Responses: Baudelaire, on Balzac’s Genius
- 2/21 **“Man Is Born Free, And Everywhere He Is in Chains”**
Rousseau, ‘Book 1’ of “On Social Contract”
- 2/26 **“For Him, His Two Daughters Are the Entire Universe”**
Père Goriot 2: Entry into High Society
- 2/28 **Balzac “Carried Society Inside Him”**
Norton Criticism: Béguin, “Balzac the Visionary”
Chevalier, “...Historical Document?”

3/4 “To See My Very Fortune, My Very Life Go Up in Smoke”
Père Goriot 3&4: Death Dodger & The Old Man’s Death

3/6 **Unit Two: First Draft due**
Post to e-Learning Discussion Board by 3pm

3/10 & 3/13 Spring Break

3/18 Sartre, *The Respectful Prostitute*

3/20 **Unit Two: Second Draft Due + Peer Review**
Post to e-Learning Discussion Board by 3pm

3/25 **Unit Two: Final Draft Due**
Post to e-Learning Assignments by 3pm

Unit III: Destructing the Body

3/27 “Hell Is . . . Other People!”
Jean-Paul Sartre, *No Exit*

4/2 “What a Strenuous Profession I Have Chosen!”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”

4/4 “Uncertainty about the Force of Institutional Power”
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (cont)
Norton Criticism: Eric Santner, “...the Writing of Abjection”

4/9 “The Monotonous Mist of Nothingness”
Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*

4/11 Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*
Critical readings TBA

4/15 **Unit Three: First Draft Due**
Post to e-Learning Discussion Board by 3pm

4/17 **Last class meeting**
Retrospective & Evaluations

4/22 **Unit Three: Second Draft due + Peer Review**
Post to e-Learning Discussion Board by 3pm

4/29 **Unit Three: Final Draft Due**
Post to e-Learning Assignments by 3pm

**** Final Grades Available on ISIS: May 5****

Distribution of Assignments and Grades

Unit I Essay: Due 2/12 , 1500 words, 25%
Unit II Essay: Due 3/25, 1500 words, 25%
Unit III Essay: Due 4/29, 1500 words, 25%
Journal & Participation: Ongoing, 1500 words, 25%

Grading Scale

A = 4.0 B+ = 3.5 B = 3.0 C+ = 2.5 C = 2.0
D+ = 1.5 D = 1.0 E = 0

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Course Policies

General Education Learning Outcomes

You must pass this course with a grade of C or better to receive 6,000-word Gordon Rule credit (E6) and satisfy the CLAS requirement of a second course in Composition (C). If you are not in CLAS, check the catalog or with your advisor to see if your college has other writing requirements. This course satisfies Composition (C) and Humanities (H) requirements according to the catalog description:

Composition (C)

Writing is one of the most important skills students need to communicate effectively during their professional careers and lives. Composition courses focus on methods of writing, conventions of standard written English, reading and comprehension skills, and techniques in production of effective texts for readers in varied situations. “C” designated courses are writing-intensive, require multiple drafts submitted to the instructor for feedback prior to final submission, and fulfill 6,000 of the university's 24,000-word writing requirement.

Humanities (H)

The humanities requirement enables students to think critically about what artists and thinkers (past and present) have to teach us about the nonmaterial qualities of human beings and human values. In courses in the humanities, students become acquainted with the enduring products -- in words, sounds, paint, stone, metal, and many other media -- in which thoughtful and gifted human beings

have attempted to meet our individual and collective needs for emotional, spiritual, or intellectual fulfillment. Humanities courses address major intellectual, cultural, and aesthetic achievements. Students consider questions of ultimate meaning and study human activities, artifacts, and values in the context of the ages in which they were produced.

Attendance and Participation

One of the ways we learn to write and become critical thinkers is through dialogue with other individuals whose experiences and perspectives vary widely from our own. Our class size is generously limited in order to facilitate this interaction and therefore you are expected to maintain an active presence in every class period. As such, your participation will be evaluated on the following key components: attendance, preparedness, and overall engagement with the course. **More than three absences may indirectly impact your academic performance and directly impact your Participation grade; more than six absences may result in failure. One absence is counted for each class period missed, therefore absences on days with double class periods count as two absences.** Only excessive absences due to official participation in university-sponsored activities may be excused with proper documentation.

Classroom Behavior

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Please refer to university policy on diversity under “Relations Between People and Groups” at www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#conduct. Please familiarize yourself with school policy regarding harassment at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass/>.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty

As a University of Florida student, your performance is governed by the UF Honor Code, available in its full form at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>. The Honor Code requires Florida students to neither give nor receive unauthorized aid in completing all assignments. Violations include cheating, plagiarism, bribery, and misrepresentation. For more detail, visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php>.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. You commit plagiarism when you present the ideas or words of someone else as your own. Remember, *you are responsible* for understanding the University's definitions of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which include the following:

- Submitting all or part of someone else's work as if it is your own.
- "Borrowing," without crediting the source, any of the following:
 - Any part of song lyrics, poetry, or movie scripts
 - Any part of another person's essay, speech, or ideas
 - Any part of an article in a magazine, journal, newspaper
 - Any part of a book, encyclopedia, CD-ROM, online WWW page, etc.
 - Any idea from another person or writer, even if you express that idea in your own words.

- "Borrowing" verbatim text without enclosing in quotation marks and citing the source.
- Making "duplicate submissions" of assignments - that is, submitting work in one class that you also submit in another class
- "Collaborating" or receiving substantive help in writing your assignment unless such collaboration is part of the given assignment. (However, you may receive general advice from tutors, writing lab instructors, or OWL staff.)
- Failing to cite sources, or citing them improperly.

Graded Materials

You are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a re-submission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is your responsibility to have and make available this material.

Challenging a Grade

If you disagree with any *individual grades* assigned over the course of the semester, please address your concerns by making an appointment to meet with me in my office. If you are in disagreement with me on your *final grade*, please contact me at the beginning of the following term to schedule an appointment to meet with me in my office. If after discussing your final grade with me you remain dissatisfied, you may express your challenge on a form in the English Department Office (4012 Turlington). The form and accompanying course material will be given to the Director of Writing Program Administration for further action. A review committee may decide to raise, lower, or keep the originally assigned grade. This decision is final. The material submitted will remain on file in the English Department Office.