Themes and Genres in English Literature: The End of the Estate

Course Description

This course will provide a general overview of major British writers and literary movements after 1800. It will pay particular attention to questions of property, power and political identity as they are tied to the rise of the novel, modernism/postmodernism and postcolonial literature. How has the country house figured into the British literary imagination over the past two centuries? Why has it lingered in both American and British popular culture today? How is its history tied to the colonial and imperial projects of the British Empire? In reading the country house as a microcosm of the major social advancements that defined the aesthetic movements of the 20th century, we will primarily study novels, short stories and poetry from this period.

Student Learning Objectives:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:

**Critical Thinking**

CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.

CT3. Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.

**Communication Skills**

CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.

**Personal Responsibility:**

PR1. Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

**Social Responsibility:**

SR3. Engage in regional, national, and global communities.

**Major Course Requirements:**

Students will be assessed according to the following assignments:

- Attendance and Participation: 15%
- Homework Assignments, Quizzes, and In-Class Writing Responses (HQI): 20%
- Thought Papers: 20%
- Mid-Term Exam: 20%
- Final Paper: 25%

**Attendance:**

Attendance is crucial for passing the course. If a student misses more than three classes, their attendance/participation grade will drop by 2/3 of a letter grade. An excess of five absences will result in a failing grade for Attendance/Participation. If a student is more than fifteen minutes late for class or leaves more than five minutes before the end of class, they will be counted as absent. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Professor in the event of an absence.

**Participation:**
Participation is absolutely essential for success in this discussion-based course. In order for a student to receive an A in this category, students must contribute substantially to the discussion in every class meeting. These are the requirements for “substantial contribution” to discussion:

- Sharing comments and questions that refer to specific passages in the text that we have read for the day
- Listening to and building off of other students contributions to class discussion so we can conduct a genuine conversation about the reading
- Engaging in considerate/constructive debate with your fellow students
- Fully participating in all group work and in-class writing assignments
- Bringing all the required reading materials to class; be sure to print off any material from Blackboard or bring them to class on an e-reader.

Homework Assignments, Quizzes, and In-Class Writing Responses (HQI) (20%):

Quizzes, homework assignments and in-class writing responses will be given in-class throughout the course in order to assess students’ completion and comprehension of the assigned reading. The Professor does not divulge the number of HQIs that will be given over the course of the semester. Quizzes, homework assignments and in-class writing responses missed due to absence or tardiness cannot be made up. If a student leaves class early, any HQI completed in class will be discounted.

Thought Papers (20%):

Students will produce two thought papers throughout the semester. Thought papers should be 2-3 pages in length and should engage primarily with one quoted passage from one text that we have read. A more detailed description of the assignment with suggested topics will be provided closer to the due date.

Mid Term Exam (20%):

Students will take a mid-term exam consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. A review will precede the exam.

Final Exam (25%):

The final exam will also consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. A review will precede the exam.

Required Texts:


All other required readings are available on Blackboard (BB). **You are required to bring the assigned reading for the day with you to class either by printing it out or bring it on an e-reader or laptop.**

**Course Supplies:**

You will need access to the following materials for the course:

- A writing utensil and paper with you in class
- A computer with Microsoft Word and a printer to write/print your papers
- A computer with reliable internet access and a current version of Adobe Acrobat reader for the pdfs on Blackboard

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the failure of the assignment. A second offense will result in the referral of the student for disciplinary sanctions to academic affairs.

Plagiarism is easily avoided. If you are using an outside source for your paper, always fully cite that source according to MLA guidelines. If you are even in doubt about when to cite a source, please contact me at ____.

**Dropping the Course**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, **you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services**
Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Nov. 7, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom Standards and Professional Behavior Guidelines

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, office hours etc.

Disruptive behavior that is prohibited in instructional forums includes:

- Sleeping in class
- Arriving late to class
- Leaving class early
- Attending class without bringing the required reading
- Texting or talking on the phone in class
- Playing or listening to music during class
- Using a computer/tablet/phone during class for anything besides reading course material
- Eating in class
- Talking over other students or the professor during class discussion
- Having side conversations with your neighbor during class discussion
- Using offensive or derogatory language in class discussion

Grade Appeals

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Reading and Assignment Schedule**

W Aug. 27 Welcome/Introduction

F Aug. 29 Zadie Smith, “Stuart” (BB) and “Take it Or Leave It” (BB)

M Sept 1 **Class Cancelled Labor Day**


M Sept 8 *Jane Eyre*

W Sept 10 *Jane Eyre*

F. Sept 12 **Reading Day**

M Sept 15 *Jane Eyre*

W Sept 17 *Jane Eyre*

F Sept 19 *Jane Eyre*
M Sept 22 Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Poetry” (BB); Joseph Chamberlain, “The True Conception of Empire” (BB)

W Sept 24 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, “The Speckled Band” (BB)

F Sept 26 **Thought Paper 1 due**

M Sept 29 James Joyce, “The Dead” (BB)

W Oct 1 Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party” (BB), and “The Fly” (BB)

F Oct 3 Wilfred Owen “Dulce Et Decorum Est” (BB); T.S. Eliot, “The Hollow Men” (BB)

M Oct 6 *The Return of the Soldier*

W Oct 8 *The Return of the Solider*

F Oct 10 *The Return of the Soldier*


W Oct 15 Virginia Woolf, “Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown” (BB); “Modernist Manifestos” (BB)

F Oct 17 **Mid Term Exam**

M Oct 20 Virginia Woolf, “The Docks of London” and “Great Men’s Houses” (BB)

W Oct 22 Elizabeth Bowen, “The Demon Lover,” (BB) and “Hand in Glove” (BB)

F Oct 24 Flann O’Brien, “Two in One” (BB)

M Oct 27 Celia Fremlin, “A Case of Maximum Need” (BB)

W Oct 29 Philip Larkin, “Poetry” (BB)

F Oct 31 Muriel Spark, “The House of a Famous Poet” (BB)

M Nov 3 Harold Pinter, “The Dumbwaiter” (BB)

W Nov 5 Grace Nichols, “Poetry” (BB), Ngugi Wa Thiongo, “Decolonising the Mind” (BB)

F Nov 7 Salman Rushdie, “The Prophet’s Hair” (BB), “The British Indian Writer and a Dream-England” and “English is an Indian Literacy Language” (BB)
M Nov 10 Seamus Heaney, “Digging”; Paul Muldoon, “Poems from Why Brownlee Left” and “Meeting the British” (BB)

Thought Paper 2 due

W Nov 12 Never Let Me Go

F Nov 14 Never Let Me Go

M Nov 17 Reading Day

W Nov 19 Never Let Me Go

F Nov 21 Never Let Me Go

M Nov 24 William Trevor, “The Ballroom of Romance” (BB)

W Nov 26 Angela Carter, “Flesh and the Mirror” (BB)

F Nov 27 Class Cancelled

M Dec 2 Last Day/ Wrap Up