

**Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of English**

ENGL 4608A: Studies in 20th Century British Literature
Prerequisite: fourth-year standing in Honours English

Thursday / 8:30 am-11:30 am
Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Adam Barrows
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Office: 2204 DT
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Office Hours: Wed./Thurs. 1pm-3pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course will explore representations of time and temporality in British literature of the twentieth-century. Often recognized to be an *idée fixe* of the formally innovative and experimental works of early twentieth-century modernism, time had a unique significance in this period as technological transformations in the measurement and manipulation of time accompanied a pervasive sense that the modern age was radically different from any previous stage of history. No longer considered a stable category of pure reason or simply a uniform physical constant, time in modernity becomes radically unstable and even explosive, a site of contesting regimes of power. While the British Empire, in decline from the height of its economic and territorial scope in the nineteenth-century, promised to globally homogenize the diverse rhythms of its territories, modernist literary art explored the ways in which temporal rhythms remained volatile and resistant to control. Drawing on a wide range of theoretical and literary-critical secondary source material, we will explore the temporal dimensions of imperialism, nationalism, anarchy, and individualism by charting the role of clocks, memory, history, and rhythm in texts ranging from H.G. Wells' genre-founding time travel novella *The Time Machine*, first published at the turn of the 20th century, to Terry Pratchett's Discworld clock fantasy, *Thief of Time*, published shortly after the century's close.

Required Texts (available at Octopus Books – 116 3rd Ave.)

Amis, Martin, *Time's Arrow*
Bowen, Elizabeth, *The Heat of the Day*
Conrad, Joseph, *The Secret Agent*
Pratchett, Terry, *Thief of Time*
Wells, H.G., *The Time Machine*
Woolf, Virginia, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Writing

In this course, you will produce one substantial research paper on the topic of time in twentieth-century British literature. The paper should be at least 5,000 words (including works cited) and

should incorporate primary evidence from at least two of the texts on the syllabus, at least one additional primary text not on the syllabus, and at least six secondary sources. The additional primary text need not be by a British writer or have been published in the twentieth-century as long as your primary argument concerns the topic of time in twentieth-century British fiction. The paper should be argumentative and should intervene meaningfully and originally in contemporary scholarly debate. Late papers will be accepted, with a penalty of 10 points deducted for each day the paper is late. In preparation for this assignment, you will also prepare an annotated bibliography of at least ten relevant secondary sources. At least half of these should be dated after the year 1996. Your annotations should summarize the main thesis of each source, provide representative examples, and briefly comment on the source's usefulness. Late assignments will be accepted, with a penalty of 10 points deducted for each day the assignment is late. In lieu of reading quizzes, I will occasionally ask you to prepare a short written discussion (1-2 pages) of an aspect of the following week's reading. These topics will be announced within the final ten minutes of lecture and will be due within the first ten minutes of the following lecture. Topics will not be posted on culearn. Late papers will not be accepted.

Optional early submission process: The paper is worth 60% of your final grade. You may choose one of the following four options:

OPTION ONE: Submit paper on April 7 (60%)

OPTION TWO: Submit 1-2 page paper proposal by Feb. 25 (10%) and paper on April 7 (50%)

OPTION THREE: Submit 1-2 page paper proposal by Feb. 25 (10%), partial draft (at least 2,000 words) by March 10 (15%), and paper on April 7 (35%)

OPTION FOUR: Submit 1-2 page paper proposal by Feb. 25 (10%), partial draft (at least 2,000 words) by March 10 (15%), complete draft by March 24 (15%) and paper on April 7 (20%)

Seminar Presentation

You will deliver a 15-20 minute oral presentation on a work of twentieth-century literature that is not represented on the course syllabus and that has a meaningful relationship to the topic of time and temporality. Your presentation should demonstrate a nuanced knowledge of the selected work and should make relevant connections between that work and the course themes and topics. Presentations will be evaluated on the basis of the student's demonstration of effective primary and secondary research skills, style and clarity of communication, and pedagogical effectiveness.

Attendance/Participation

You are expected to attend every class and to readily participate in the discussion. Participation includes bringing a version of the text to class, having carefully read the assigned pages for the day, and having prepared a list of written discussion questions.

Grading

Attendance/Participation: **5%**

Discussion papers: **5%**

Annotated bibliography: **15%**

Seminar presentation: **15%**

Research paper: **60%**

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information please go to:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide above.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Course Schedule (This schedule is subject to change at my discretion. All reading assignments must be completed before the date they are listed)

January 7

Introduction/time and temporality in literature before 1900

January 14

Wells, *The Time Machine*

January 21

Conrad, *The Secret Agent* (chapters I through VII)

January 28

Conrad, *The Secret Agent* (chapters VIII through XIII)

February 4

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (first half - up to pg. 102 “But Rezia Warren Smith cried...”)

February 11

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (second half)

February 18

WINTER BREAK

February 25

Paper proposal due (options two, three, and four)

Bowen, *The Heat of the Day* (chapters 1 through 9)

March 3

Annotated Bibliography Due

Bowen, *The Heat of the Day* (chapters 10 through 17)

March 10

Paper partial draft due (options three and four)

Amis, *Time's Arrow*

March 17

Pratchett, *Thief of Time* (first half – up to pg. 228 “I reckon we’re doing thirty miles an hour...”)

March 24

Paper complete draft due (option four)

Pratchett, *Thief of Time* (second half)

March 31

Seminar Presentations

April 7

Seminar Presentations

Paper Due (all options)