

Winter 2011 English Department

ENGL 5608
Twentieth-Century Studies
Thursday 1:05 to 3:55
1816 Dunton Tower

Instructor: Prof. J. Medd
Office 1804 Dunton Tower
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11:45 to 1:30 & by appointment
Phone: 520-2600, ext. 2329
E-mail: jodie_medd@carleton.ca

Modernist Genders, Modernist Sexualities

Course Description

"Modernism" is understood as a combination of innovative literary movements from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, movements that were responding to the contemporary historical conditions of "modernity" while also reacting against Victorian cultural beliefs and literary forms. However, modernism also developed in relation to significant changes in the politics and understandings of gender and sexuality, including changes in marriage and the family, gender roles, sexual identities and attitudes, and psychology. Modernism addressed gender identity (masculinity, femininity, and the spaces in between), gender relations (whether opposite-sex or same-sex relations), and sexuality (hetero, homo, infantile, extra-marital, and otherwise) as subject matter, but also conceptualized its innovative avant-garde style and philosophical concerns through specifically gendered and sexualized language. This course will consider modernist texts and artistic theory in relation to the cultural context of modernity to explore how both the content and style of modernism were gendered and sexualized. The reading schedule is organized around key topics: decadent style and male homosexuality; gender, sexuality and World War One; writing the modernist artist; queer fictions of identity. Preoccupations with class, empire, and national identity in relation to gender and sexuality are shared by many texts on the course and will be a recurrent topic of our conversations. We will also examine how the politics of gender and sexuality relate to modernist literary production and circulation, including legal obscenity and censorship, self-censorship, editing, posthumous publication, and literary coteries and communities.

Required Texts

Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Broadview)
E. M. Forster, *Maurice* (Penguin)
D. H. Lawrence, *England, My England* (Penguin)
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics)
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (Broadview)
H.D. *HERmione* (New Directions)
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (Penguin)

*Books are available at After Stonewall Books, 370 Bank (at Gilmour). Support local business! –and PLEASE buy the editions indicated!

Reserve Books and Further Reading

I have on reserve a number of books related to the course, which should be helpful for seminars and research papers. Some required material is also on reserve, for you to photocopy. The reserve list is *not* exhaustive—there's more for you to find. See the handout "Suggested Further Reading" for research suggestions, indexed by topics on the course.

Requirements and Evaluation

You must complete all of these requirements in order to receive a grade in this course.

Please keep electronic copies of all the work you submit to the course.

Final Research Paper: 35% of final grade One term paper (3500 to 4500 words) on a topic of your choice. This is a research paper: you want to demonstrate an awareness of the critical materials available on the text and topic you are discussing, and the paper should be informed by the theory and/or history we have discussed in the course. Suggestions for topics will be distributed later in the course. The paper will be due at the end of term, so I will not be able to grant extensions, although you can apply to the Registrar's office for a formal deferral if you have extenuating circumstances.

Seminar Presentation and Paper: 35% of final grade Seminar topics vary and will require different research strategies, including outside historical research; connections between texts; research into particular genres or artistic movements; research into theoretical approaches; secondary research on literary texts, etc. The seminar schedule includes questions or suggested topics to direct and inspire your research. You should develop your own focus, and you are free to address other topics. If you are presenting on the same week as another student, be sure to consult one another. Think of your seminar as an engaging and interactive conference paper: You will *present* (not read) 15 to 20 minutes (max.) of material, and then facilitate class discussion—your seminar should *open up questions*. See “Seminar Guidelines” for more details, including what will hand in.

Attendance, Participation, and Preparation: 30% of final grade Active participation constitutes the vital lifeblood of a successful seminar. In preparation for class discussion, you will write short and informal “think pieces” that critically reflect upon the assigned texts. In order for everyone to benefit from your reflections, you will post your think pieces on the WebCT discussion board before the class in which we are discussing the particular readings. You are also encouraged to respond to postings by your classmates and engage in online discussion about the readings/course (for example, thoughts you might have *after* a class...)—your active, thoughtful, and engaged participation in online discussion will contribute to your participation mark. Please post 5 think pieces to WebCT; you are welcome to post more, but you should not write a think piece on the readings for your seminar. On two of the weeks that you are not posting a think piece, please post at least two critical questions. See “Think Pieces, Critical Questions, and Online Participation” for more details. Finally, as we only meet once a week, regular attendance is crucial. Absences will affect your final grade (because you won't be participating class discussion), and will annoy me and your classmates. *If you must miss a class, I advise you to do an extra on-line posting for that week. We'll still be annoyed but not as much....

Plagiarism

If you have any questions about when and how to cite reference sources, do not hesitate to ask me. If I suspect that an essay has been plagiarized, I am required to submit the essay to the Associate Dean, who will conduct a thorough investigation into the case and administer penalties. The penalties for plagiarism are very severe, and you could be expelled from the university. For Carleton's Policy on Academic Integrity, please see *The Graduate Calendar*, 2010-2011, General Regulations, section 14: <http://www.carleton.ca/cugc/regulations/index.html#14>.

Contacting me

I am available during my office hours to discuss any aspect of the course. If this time conflicts with your schedule, I would be happy to schedule an appointment. You can also send me a message by e-mail or voice mail, any time of day or night and I will respond in good time. E-mail is the most reliable means of contacting me.

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 visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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 visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.

Please visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more information on academic accommodation: <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.