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English 386

Document Actions



Carolyn Nelson, ENGL 386, Spring 2005

English 386: Spring 2005

Instructor: Carolyn Nelson

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11:30 MWF, 207 Armstrong

Office: 329 Stansbury

Office Hours: 10:30-11:20

British Women Writers

Required Texts:

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*, (Broadview)

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*, (Harvest/Harcourt Brace)

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, (Harvest/Harcourt Brace)

Emily, Anne, and Charlotte Brontë, *Best Poems of the Bronte Sisters*, (Dover)

C Nelson, ed., *Literature of the Women's Suffrage Campaign in England*, (Broadview)

Readings and Assignments

Week 1

1/10 Introduction to the course

1/12 Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*. Chapter 1: pp. 3-11, 17-24

1/14 Woolf Chapter 2: pp. 25-40

Week 2

1/17 Martin Luther King Holiday

1/19 Woolf, Chapter 3: pp.41-51

1/21 Woolf, Chapter 4: pp. 64-78; Chapter 5: pp. 104-114

Week 3

1/24 Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*. Volume I, Chapters 1-9, pp. 63-148

1/26 *Jane Eyre*, Volume I, Chapters 10-15, pp. 149-225

1/28 *Jane Eyre*, Volume II, Chapters 16-20, pp. 229-302

Week 4

1/31 *Jane Eyre*, Volume 11, Chapters 21-26, pp. 303-384

2/2 *Jane Eyre*, Volume ITT, Chapters 27-32, pp. 387-473

2/4 *Jane Eyre*, Volume III, Chapters 33-38, pp. 474-556

Week 5

2/7 Test #1

2/9 *Best Poems of the Bronte Sisters*, poems pp.3,4,6,12, 15, 17, 19

2/11 Poems, pp. 22, 24, 29, 32, 39 ["Stanzas"], 41 ["The Old Stoic"], 42, 43

Week 6

2/14 Poems, pp. 45 ["A Reminiscence"], 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 55, 57

2/16 V. Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 3-39

2/18 *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 39-80

Week 7

2/21 *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 80-122

2/23 *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 122-158

2/25 *Mrs. Dalloway*, pp. 158-194

Week 8

2/28 *Literature of the Women's Suffrage Campaign in England*.

Introduction pp. xi-xix. Look over pages xxi-xli. *The Arguments* 3-

4; Taylor & Mill 5-18

3/2 Becker 19-24; "An Appeal" 25-29; Duke 37-43

3/4 Pillans 51-2; Samuels 53-54; Owen 55-56; Hart 57

Week 9

3/7 *Militancy & the Hunger Strike* 58-59. Fawcett 60-62; Billington-Greig 63-64; Caird 7 1-75; Robins 76-83

3/9 Test #2

3/11 *Women in the Campaign Tell Their Stories* 89. E. Pankhurst 91-101.

Spring Vacation: March 12 to 20

Week 10

3/21 Sylvia Pankhurst 102-105; Pethick-Lawrence 106-117

3/23 Kenney 118-124; Mitchell 133-137; Lytton 138-144;
Memorial Statue 145-147

3/25 Friday before Easter (Holiday)

Week 11

3/28 Poetry and Songs 153-178

3/30 Suffrage Drama 181-3. Hamilton & St. John, *How the Vote Was Won* 184-200

4/1 Cholmondeley, *Votes for Men* 201-208

Week 12

4/4 Hatton, *Before Sunrise* 209-220

4/6 Hamilton, *A Pageant of Great Women* 221-232

4/8 Arncliffe-Sennett, *An Englishwoman's Home* 233-245

Week 13

4/11 Nevinson, *In the Workhouse* 246-255

4/13 Glover, *A Chat with Mrs. Chicky* 265-76

4/15 Glover, *Miss Appleyard's Awakening* 277-87

Week 14

4/18 Suffrage Fiction 291. Short Stories 293: Sharp, "The Women at the Gate" 294-300. Sharp, "Shaking Hands with the Middle Ages" 301-307

4/20 Colmore, "The Introduction" 308-9; "The Magical Musician" 310-312

4/22 Novels 326. Maud, *No Surrender* 327-338

Week 15

4/25 Colmore, *Suffragette Sally* 339-349

4/27 Presentation and discussion of papers on suffrage

4/29 Finish presentation of papers. Paper on suffrage due.

A Description of the Course

This course is designed in two parts. In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf states that "a woman writing thinks back through her

mothers" (97). If that is true, then there must be a women's tradition in literature which needs to be discovered. The first part of this course will discuss that women's tradition and read fiction and poetry that form part of that tradition. It will also look at the economic and social conditions under which women wrote in past centuries in order to see if there is a satisfactory answer to the question of why there is no female Shakespeare.

The second half of the course will examine how women used their writing at a particular time in history to advance a political agenda, in this particular case women's suffrage. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries women used their writing as part of their struggle to gain the vote. A great variety of literature from every genre was enlisted to help in the women's suffrage campaign in England. We will read representative literature from this campaign, including essays, poems, song, plays, and stories.

Policies and Requirements

Attendance: To get the greatest benefit from the course, it is important to attend all classes. Do all the assigned readings for the day before coming to class so that you can contribute to the discussion. Always bring the text to class. You are permitted 4 absences for any reason, such as illness or family emergency. After that, 2 points per absence will be subtracted from your final grade. (Absences for University related activities do not count. However, they must be documented by a letter from a coach or faculty member.) If some crisis comes up in your life, you need to notify me as well as the university immediately, not at the end of the semester. The last few weeks of class are not the time to try to straighten out all your absences and to account for your missed assignments. Please do not come to class late, leave early, or use

cell phones during the class time.

Reading/Discussion Papers: You are required to write discussion papers for each of the readings for 5 of the 15 weeks of the semester. Hand these in on Fridays. Begin with a title of the reading under discussion. Then write a brief discussion and/or analysis of some of the ideas in the reading or readings for the week. Don't simply provide a summary of the reading or make remarks such as "I found this essay to be boring." Such papers will receive low grades. These papers should be typed, with appropriate headings, and will receive from 0 to 5 points. They cannot be made up or rewritten at a later date. Hand in at least one of these discussion papers by the end of the third week of class.

Presentation: Students who would like to make a presentation to the class on one or more of the readings for the day are encouraged to do so. This presentation should be at least 15 minutes but it can take up the entire class. These presentations can take a variety of forms, such as asking questions about the day's reading or discussing ideas or passages in the literature for the day. Don't just read notes to the class. Be sure to get the class involved in some way. Depending on the quality of the presentation, you will get from 0 to 5 points added to your final grade. This is the only extra credit it is possible to earn. You may do more than one presentation but you cannot add more than 5 total points to your final grade.

Grades: Your grade will be calculated on the basis of the points seen below. All tests must be taken on the assigned day and the paper must be handed in on time or it will be graded down 5 points for each late day. Do not send any papers by email or through

attachments. These can go astray and there is no record that they were submitted.

Reading Discussions: 5 x 5 points each = 25 points

Tests: 2 x 20 points each = 40

Paper: 35 points = 35

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