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English 235

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Marilyn Francus, ENGL 235, Spring 2005, Novel

English 235 HN: The Academic Novel

Spring 2005

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:45

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-3:00, and by appointment.

January 11 Introduction

January 13 Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

January 18 Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

January 20 Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

January 25 Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

January 27 Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

February 1 Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*

February 3 Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*; **First Essay Due**

February 8 Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*

February 10 Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*

February 15 James, *Turn of the Screw*

February 17 James, *Turn of the Screw*

February 22 Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

February 24 Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

March 1 Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

March 3 Midterm Examination

March 8 Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

March 10 Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

March 15-17 Spring Break

March 22 Amis, *Lucky Jim*

March 24 Amis, *Lucky Jim*

March 29 Amis, *Lucky Jim*

March 31 Class Cancelled

April 5 Lodge, *Small World*; **Second Essay Due**

April 7 Lodge, *Small World*

April 12 Lodge, *Small World*

April 14 Lodge, *Small World*

April 19 Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

April 21 Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

April 26 Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

April 28 **Conclusion**

May 4 Final Examination Due

Textbook: Available from the WVU Bookstore.

Course Description: English 235 will focus on the academic novel as a means to illuminate the history and conventions of the novel. The novels in this course depict education in a range of contexts (elementary through graduate school, public and private), from a variety of perspectives (student, faculty, and administration), and modes (comedy, satire, drama, and horror). By reading these British, Irish, and Scottish novels, we will be able to examine the novel in terms of narration, characterization, prose style, and form. We will discuss critical and theoretical approaches to the novel, and we will evaluate these novels within their cultural and historical

contexts. In so doing, we will be able to assess the ongoing popularity of the novel as a genre in Western culture, and in the process, perhaps shed some light on our own experiences of academia.

Course Objectives:

- To define the novel as a genre
- To identify and evaluate the major themes, topics, and issues of the novel
- To evaluate novels within their historical and cultural contexts, to make evident the connection between the novel and other areas of knowledge
- To assess the development of the novel as a genre
- To apply and test critical and theoretical models of the novel to a variety of novels, in order to develop critical thinking and analytical ability
- To practice formal and stylistic conventions of literary criticism and analysis

Course Requirements: Two short (5 page) essays; one midterm; one final exam. Quizzes at the instructor's discretion. You will be expected to keep up with the reading, attend class, participate in class discussion, and check your MIX e-mail account at least twice a week.

Grading

1. Each of the two essays counts for 25% of your final grade, the midterm for 25% and the final exam for 25% of your final

grade. Class participation will be taken into consideration for students with borderline grades.

2. You have the option to submit rewrites of your papers. If you choose this option, come and see me about strategies for the rewrite. A rewrite is not a matter of making corrections in grammar and punctuation; it is a rethinking of the issues in your essay. If your grade on the rewrite is higher than your original grade, you will receive the rewrite grade. If your grade on the rewrite is lower than your original grade, you will keep your original grade.
3. If you know in advance that you cannot attend an examination (for instance, because of a University excuse), please contact me at once, and a make-up examination will be arranged. Otherwise, there are no make-ups for missed examinations. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.
4. Class participation will be taken into consideration for students with borderline grades.

Grading Criteria:

A (90-100) — Excellent work; the assignments for this course have been completed in a professional and timely manner. The written assignments and responses on examinations are clearly organized, choose compelling evidence to substantiate the analysis, and engage with the subject at hand in a thoughtful and thought-provoking manner. Written work requires no substantive or stylistic revisions, whether it appears on an exam, a quiz, or in an essay.

B (80-89) — Good work; the assignments for the course have

been completed in a professional and timely manner. The written assignments and responses on examinations show substantial engagement with the subject at hand, but the analysis is either partially incomplete, involving weak evidence, or manifests some difficulty with organization. Written work requires substantive revisions, but few or no stylistic ones.

C (70-79) — Average work; the assignments for the course have been completed, but not necessarily in a professional or timely manner. The written assignments and responses on examinations show effort by the student, but the analysis is incomplete, includes inappropriate evidence (or a lack of evidence), or shows significant difficulties with organization. Written work, whether on a test, an essay, or a quiz, requires significant substantive or stylistic revisions.

D (60-69) - Less than average work; the assignments for the course have not been completed in a professional or timely manner. The written assignments and responses on examinations show a lack of effort on the part of the student, and a lack of engagement with the assignment (exam, quiz, or essay). Written assignments lack analysis, evidence, and organization; extensive substantive and stylistic revisions are necessary.

F (<59) - Inadequate work; the assignments for the course have not been completed. Written assignments, when submitted, show a significant lack of effort on the part of the student, and a lack of engagement with the assignment and the subject matter of the course. Such work is mark by the absence of analysis, evidence, and organization; engagement with the course materials is necessary before extensive revisions are even possible.

Submission of Assignments

1. All papers are to be typed, with sufficient space in the margins for comments. (One-inch margins will do). Papers should be double spaced.
2. Your papers and exams should reflect careful reading and thinking about your subject. Do not summarize the plot of a work or rephrase your class notes in your papers or exams.
3. It is highly recommended that you keep a photocopy or a back-up disk of every assignment that you hand in.
4. Hand in papers on time. Late submissions will receive a lower grade unless the student has a viable reason (such as illness, familial emergency) for his/her lateness. Your grade will be lowered a fraction for every day your work is late (ex. B to B- for one day late).
5. The midterm examination (and quizzes, should they be deemed necessary) will be administered at the beginning of the class session.
6. Please bring blue books (available in the WVU Bookstore) to the midterm examination.
7. Please write legibly on the midterm examination (and the quizzes, should they be deemed necessary).

Plagiarism

The following definitions of Academic Dishonesty are excerpted from the West Virginia University Academic Integrity/Dishonesty Policy, available online at as/interit.html:

1. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined in terms of proscribed acts. Students are expected to understand that such practices constitute academic dishonesty regardless of motive. Those who deny deceitful intent, claim not to have known that the act constituted plagiarism, or maintain that what they did was inadvertent are nevertheless subject to penalties when plagiarism has been confirmed. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

submitting, without appropriate acknowledgement, a report, notebook, speech, outline, theme, thesis, dissertation, or other written, visual, or oral material that has been copied in whole or in part from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual's academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper.

2. Cheating and dishonest practices in connection with examinations, papers, and projects, including but not limited to:

- a.** Obtaining help from another student during examinations.
- b.** Knowingly giving help to another student during examinations, taking an examination or doing academic work for another student, or providing one's own work for another student to copy and submit as his/her own.
- c.** The unauthorized use of notes, books, or other sources of information during examinations.
- d.** Obtaining without authorization an examination or any part thereof

3. Forgery, misrepresentation, or fraud:

a. Forging or altering, or causing to be altered, the record of any grade in a grade book or other educational record.

b. Use of University documents or instruments of identification with intent to defraud.

c. Presenting false data or intentionally misrepresenting one's records for admission, registration, or withdrawal from the University or from a University course.

d. Knowingly presenting false data or intentionally misrepresenting one's records for personal gain.

e. Knowingly furnishing the results of research projects or experiments for the inclusion in another's work without proper citation.

f. Knowingly furnishing false statements in any University academic proceeding. Cases of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" for the course and appropriate academic discipline. If you have any questions about academic dishonesty, and how to avoid it, please contact me.

Student Professionalism

1. At West Virginia University, class attendance contributes significantly to academic success. Students who attend classes regularly tend to earn higher grades and have higher passing rates in courses. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class session of English 225. You are granted a maximum of three absences during the course of the semester. If this limit is exceeded without an acceptable excuse (such as illness,

familial emergency), your grade will be lowered accordingly (one letter grade for each additional three unexcused absences) and/or the student will be asked to leave the course.

2. Your attendance is your responsibility.
3. Come to class on time. Arriving late distracts the members of the class, and will be detrimental to your academic experience.
4. Should you need assistance during a time of difficulty or crisis, please contact Tom Sloane, Associate Dean, in the Office of Student Life in E. Moore Hall, 304-293-5611

Social Justice Policy

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual Orientation, color or national origin Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

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