

## English 354. Twentieth-Century British Literature

Fall 2007

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### Course Objectives

- To become familiar with the works of selected twentieth-century writers in the British Isles and Britain's former colonies
- To explore the stylistic experimentation and distinctive interest in mythology, psychology, and political and cultural history that characterized the modernist writers of the first half of the century
- To probe the class, feminist, and global re-visioning of the writers of the post-colonial second half of the century
- To practice careful reading and informed interpretation of the literature
- To develop skills in oral and written presentation and in research

### Required Texts

Dettmar, Kevin J. H. and Jennifer Wicke, eds. The Twentieth Century. New York: Longman, 2006. Vol. 2C of The Longman Anthology of British Literature. Ed. David Damrosch and Kevin J. H. Detmar. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 6 vols. 2006.

Joyce, James. Dubliners. New York: Bantam, 1990.

### Course Requirements

- Each student will keep an electronic journal of her or his reactions to the readings for the course, writing at least 250 words each week, except for the week of December 10, for a total of 15 responses. The response to all or part of the reading assigned in a given week will be e-mailed to student colleagues in the course and the instructor at any time during that week but no later than midnight on Saturday. Each response can earn 5 points (one point each for being on time, for being at least 250 words long [include a word-count at the end of each response], and for quoting and commenting on a specific passage from a text assigned for the week; two points for demonstrating thoughtful consideration) for a total of 75 points. In addition, each student will write 5 reactions to other students' responses. Each reaction can earn 5 points (one point each for posting the reaction within a week of the original posting, for being at least 250 words long [include a word count], and for quoting a specific, fresh passage relevant to the original response; two points for thoughtfully challenging or extending the original response) for a total of 25 points. No responses or reactions will be counted after noon on December 10. The journal grade will be worth 20% of the final grade.

- Each student will sign up to serve as a co-instructor for a class meeting. Co-instructor responsibilities will include opening the meeting (10-15 minutes) by engaging the class (via, for example, lecture, discussion, small group activity, puppet show, etc.) in consideration of all or part of one or more of the texts assigned for reading on that day. A co-instructor will also be expected to aid the course instructor with the conduct of the remaining class time as requested. Co-instruction will count as 10% of the final grade.
- A research paper dealing with a text or texts read for the course will be due on October 29. Each student will identify at least three critical essays addressing the text(s) and will integrate these essays with the paper's thesis. The suggested length is 8-10 word-processed, double-spaced pages in length, including appropriate documentation in the MLA style. The paper will count as 20% of the final grade.
- A period examination on October 3 will be worth 20% of the final grade. A period examination on November 14 will be worth another 20%.
- During the final three weeks of the semester, over five class meetings, 15 post-colonial writers will be briefly examined. Each student will sign up to present an approach (10 minutes) to one of those writers (via, for example, lecture, discussion, small group activity, interpretive dance, etc.). This presentation will count as 10% of the final grade.

### **Grading**

The final grade will, in general, be computed according to the percentages noted above. Late work will be penalized. A period examination missed for a valid, documented reason may be re-scheduled at the discretion of the instructor. Since students are expected to attend class regularly, absences will be noted and will negatively affect a final grade. In addition to the specifically graded presentations or activities noted above, contributions to class discussions and participation in other class activities will also be considered in assigning the final grade. The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative judgments in determining grades for individual assignments and for the course. Grading equivalents:

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A+ | 98 | B+ | 88 | C+ | 78 | D+ | 68 |
| A  | 95 | B  | 85 | C  | 75 | D  | 65 |
| A- | 92 | B- | 82 | C- | 72 | D- | 62 |
|    |    |    |    |    |    | F  | 55 |

### **Academic Honesty**

Students in this course are expected to adhere to the accepted practices of academic honesty such as those outlined in the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in its current *Student Handbook*. It is available online at <http://www.moravian.edu/StudentLife/handbook/academic2.htm>.

Students must retain copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as all notes, drafts, and materials used in preparing assignments. These are to be made available for inspection by the instructor at any time.

Questions about appropriate collaboration, proper documentation, and other honesty issues can be confusing. If in doubt, ask the instructor.

**N.B.**

- This syllabus, including the schedule of readings and written assignments that follows, is subject to change.
- To be successful, students should expect to work at least six hours per week outside of class preparing for this class.
- Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

### Schedule of Readings, Examinations, and Written Assignments

|       |           |  |
|-------|-----------|--|
| Aug.  | <u>27</u> | Introduction to the course   |
|       | <u>29</u> | Introductory essay: <u>TC</u> 2111-2134; <i>Blast</i> , West: <u>TC</u> 2308-2340          |
| Sept. | <u>05</u> | WWI Poets: <u>TC</u> 2340-2379   |
|       | <u>10</u> | Yeats: <u>TC</u> 2390-2419   |
|       | <u>12</u> | Forster: <u>TC</u> 2419-2430   |
|       | <u>17</u> | Joyce: <u>Dubliners</u> vii-xxiii, 1-75  |
|       | <u>19</u> | Joyce: <u>Dubliners</u> 76-141   |
|       | <u>24</u> | Joyce: <u>Dubliners</u> 142-182  |
|       | <u>26</u> | Eliot: <u>TC</u> 2506-2531   |
| Oct.  | <u>01</u> | Eliot: <u>TC</u> 2539-2544   |
|       | <u>03</u> | <b>Period examination</b>  |
|       | <u>10</u> | Woolf: <u>TC</u> 2549-2552, 2555-2608  |
|       | <u>15</u> | Woolf: <u>TC</u> 2608-2660   |
|       | <u>17</u> | Mansfield: <u>TC</u> 2725-2738   |
|       | <u>22</u> | Lawrence: <u>TC</u> 2738-2748  |
|       | <u>24</u> | Lawrence: <u>TC</u> 2748-2775  |
|       | <u>29</u> | Churchill, Spender, Bowen: <u>TC</u> 2796-2818; <b>research paper due</b>                  |
|       | <u>31</u> | Waugh, Orwell: <u>TC</u> 2818-2848   |
| Nov.  | <u>05</u> | Thomas: <u>TC</u> 2849-2854  |
|       | <u>07</u> | Postwar Poets: <u>TC</u> 2902-2927   |
|       | <u>12</u> | Beckett: <u>TC</u> 2854-2890   |
|       | <u>14</u> | <b>Period examination</b>  |
|       | <u>19</u> | Kureishi: <u>TC</u> 2941-2988  |
|       | <u>26</u> | Rushdie: <u>TC</u> 2988-3012   |
|       | <u>28</u> | Rushdie: <u>TC</u> 3012-3030   |
| Dec.  | <u>03</u> | Bennett, Thiong'o, Gordimer, Walcott, Heaney: <u>TC</u> 3031-3063                          |
|       | <u>05</u> | Kerman, Boland, Goodison, Ali, Muldoon: <u>TC</u> 3063-3094                                |
|       | <u>10</u> | Dhomhnaill, Lewis, Crawford, Herbert: <u>TC</u> 3094-3115; <b>journal deadline at noon</b> |

