2014

470-01 Modern British Literature

Tyrone Williams
williamt@xavier.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/english_syllabi_fall_2014

Recommended Citation
http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/english_syllabi_fall_2014/59

This Restricted-Access Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the English Syllabi 2014 at Exhibit. It has been accepted for inclusion in English Syllabi Fall 2014 by an authorized administrator of Exhibit. For more information, please contact exhibit@xavier.edu.

Course Focus: This course provides a general overview of developments in modern and postmodern British literature of the 20th century. Nonetheless, we will be able to trace the ongoing consequences of the decline of the British Empire in relation to class, ethnic, racial, and gender anxieties as the question of British identity undergoes a shift. Thus the course has as its bookends two “colonial” novels and a colonial novel in the middle that serves as the hinge that links and divides these issues. Recommended authors we will not have the opportunity to read this semester include Martin Amis, Flann O’Brien, Helen Oyeyemi, Will Grey and Julian Barnes.

Assignments: Three oral reports: September 24th, October 23rd and November 6th. The first two reports will each cover two of the books/stories we have read up to that point. In practice this will probably mean the first three novels and a few of the short stories from *The Bloody Chamber*. The third oral report
will be a prospectus for the research paper which must use at least one book after *Under the Volcano*.

One major research paper (8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, due the last day of class December 11, 2014).

Impromptu quizzes on the readings assigned for a particular class.

Three examinations: Exam 1 will cover the first two novels; Exam 2 will cover the next novel and some of the short stories from *The Bloody Chamber*. The final exam will cover short stories from *The Bloody Chamber* and the last two novels.

Regular and consistent participation in class discussions.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Reports</td>
<td>25 points (10 points for the first two, five points for the third)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>35 points (10 points for each of the first two exams; 15 points for the final exam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Schedule:**

1. Portrait of the Artist As A Young Man (Chapter 1 T; Chapter 2 R)
2. Portrait of the Artist As A Young Man (Chapters 3 & 4 T; Chapter 5 R)
3. To The Lighthouse (“The Window,” Chapters (i-xiii T) (xiv-xlx R)
4. To The Lighthouse (“Times Passes”; “The Lighthouse i-iv T) (v-xiii R)
5. Under The Volcano (Introduction and Chapters 1-3, 5-97; Oral Report 1 (9/24/14)
6. Under The Volcano (Chapters 4, 5 T, 98-156; Chapter 6 R, 157-202)
7. Under The Volcano (Chapters 7, 8-203-263 T; Exam 1 (in class) R
8. Under The Volcano (Chapters 9, 10 264-328 T; Chapter 11, 329-350 R)
9. Under The Volcano Chapter 12 (351-391); Oral Report 2 R (10/23/14)
11. The Bloody Chamber (all four remaining stories): Exam 2 (take-home); Oral Report 3 R (11/6/14)
12. Written On The Body (9-69 T; 70-111 R)
13. Written On The Body (112-139 T; 140-190 R)
14. A Distant Shore Book 1 T, 3-63; Book II R, 64-169)
15. A Distant Shore (Book III T, 170-266; Book IV R, 267-277); Research Paper Due
16. Final Exam

Miscellaneous: The use of laptops*, cell phones, I-phones or any texting devices during class is strictly forbidden. Any student caught using such devices will be marked absent for the day and will not be allowed to participate in class in any form whatsoever. Students who attend class without the book being discussed that day will also be considered absent and will likewise be forbidden to participate in class discussions or take quizzes. Students who walk into class more than five minutes after class begins will also be considered absent for the day and will not be permitted to participate in class discussions and/or take quizzes. Late papers will be penalized a half a grade per day (not class) late. Plagiarism, intentional or not, will result in automatic failure of the course.