



Beijing Jiaotong University

2020 Summer Session

ENG 101-B English Literature

Course Outline

Term: June 29-July 24, 2020

Class Hours: 14:00-15:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: ENG 101-B

Instructor: Dr. Brendan Prawdzik

Home Institution: Pennsylvania State University

Professor homepage: <http://english.la.psu.edu/faculty-staff/bmp16>

Office Hours: TBA

Email: bmp16@psu.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, 8 professor office hours, 8 TA discussion session hours, and 4 review session hours.

Course Description: *Visions of Modernity*

In this course, we will read short stories, a novel, and lyric poems that grapple with their historical moment, visualizing it as a turning point of history—specifically, as part of a new modernity. Whereas courses that focus on modernisms often proceed chronologically to examine developing themes and genres, this course will move *backwards*, so that we will begin the early twentieth-century movement known as “modernism” before lapsing into the nineteenth and seventeenth centuries. The texts that we will study are united in their meditations on urban life, war, tectonic cultural shifts, and disturbances of emotion and consciousness. The texts also return to questions of gender—specifically, to the historical agency of women and to codes of masculinity.

Covering the prominent genres of English literature, the course will allow us to learn about literary form and to conduct close textual analysis while covering a wide swathe of English literary history.



As we move backwards in time, we will continue to consider not only how these visions of a new, “modern” age differ, but also how they return us to the same questions, suggesting, in the words of the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, that “There is nothing new under the sun.”

Course Objectives:

- Identify major texts of English literature, their place in history, and their generic and linguistic conventions.
- Articulate how the literature treats themes of modernity and the place of the individual within a rapidly changing world.
- Articulate how the literature treats concerns of gender, class, identity, ideology, and war.
- Productively analyze the language of rich literary texts: individually, comparatively, and within various cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate learning through practices of effective composition: organization, evidence, analysis, interpretation, paragraphs, and sentences.

Required Textbooks:

Purchase these texts (specifically, the edition that corresponds with the ISBN-13 number):

- James Joyce, *Dubliners* (1914) – ISBN-13: 9780140186475
- Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) – ISBN-13: 9 780141439518

Access these texts through links to online texts from the course website:

- Randall Jarrell, “Death of A Ball Turret Gunner” (1945)
- William B. Yeats, “The Second Coming” (1919)
- Ezra Pound, “In a Station of the Metro” (1913)
- T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (1915)
- Andrew Marvell, “The Mower to the Glow-worms” (ca. 1652)
- Marvell, “The Mower against Gardens” (1668)
- Shakespeare, Sonnets 60 and 73 (1609)

Grading & Assessment:

- Exam I: 25%
- Exam II: 25%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Presentation: 10%
- Textual Exercise I: 10%
- Textual Exercise II: 10%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%

93.5-100% = A; 90-93.5% = A-; 86.5-90% = B+; 83.5-86.5% = B; 80-83.5% = B-; 76.5-80% = C+; 73.5-76.5% = C; 70-73.5% = C-; 60-70% = D; <60% = F

Exams: You will take two exams, in which you will demonstrate (1) awareness of concepts and relevant facts; and (2) ability to identify, analyze, and interpret specific passages discussed at length during class. The exams will consist of 102 multiple-choice questions and 5 passage identification/interpretive analysis questions; and one essay.

Quizzes: Reading is required for each class session: no exceptions. There will be six unannounced quizzes, which will be based on assigned readings. These will consist of three multiple-choice questions each. The sole purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that students are reading in advance of class. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Short Presentations: You will begin one of the class sessions by giving a 10-15 minute presentation that introduces a context that is relevant to the assigned texts. All presentations will incorporate multimedia components and should conclude by bringing us into the details of the assigned text. You will be given a date for the presentation and will choose your topic from a provided list.

Textual Exercises: These will ask a series of highly specific questions related to the diction (words), syntax (sentences), and imagery in an assigned lyric poem. They will require you to use a dictionary and Internet resources. The exercises will be completed in small groups both in class and outside of class. Students will add a brief interpretive essay (1-2 pp.) at the end of their analyses.

Participation: Points will be awarded for level of engagement during class, meaningful contributions to class discussion, and effective work in groups. Attendance is, of course, required and assumed. Irresponsible attendance will result in a significant grade reduction or, at worst, an “F” for the course. You will receive 1) a warning (no deduction); 2) a second notice and further warning (at least 10% deducted from final grade); and 3) a final notice (failure for the course).

You may use laptops in class if the content is directly related to class discussion: after all, we will be working from digital texts. Cell phone use in class is unacceptable and will result in lost participation credit. Do not sleep during class: I will try to keep the class lively, but remember, there is lots of caffeine around!

It is clear when students do not read in preparation for class. Insufficient preparation will sharply affect the participation grade. There will be an occasional quiz, which will allow me to gauge preparation. The quiz scores will not factor directly into the final grade but could inform the Participation grade.