

HUM/EN 5: MAJOR BRITISH AUTHORS

Prof. Dehn Gilmore
dwg@hss.caltech.edu
Dabney 315

Tu-TH 2:30-3:55

Office Hours: Tu 4:15-5:15 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an introduction to close reading and critical writing through a study of British authors writing from the 16th through 21st centuries. As we read a mix of poetry, prose and drama, we will consider how writers imagined science and how they depicted the “scientific imagination.”

TEXTS:

All texts are widely available from Amazon and other online sources. I also encourage you to order them through independent retailers like powells.com, or our local Vromans

We will be supplementing the books available for purchase with Xeroxes, which I will distribute in class. I STRONGLY prefer that you use paper copies of all books for the course, preferably the editions indicated below. If for some reason you must use digital copies of any of the books, you are responsible for finding a way to take notes in or on the texts, and you *must bring a copy of the text to class. You should also ensure that the electronic copies you are using are from a reputable source (eg: Project Gutenberg)

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus* (Oxford) ISBN: 0199537062
Francis Bacon et al, *Three Modern Utopias* (Oxford) ISBN: 9870199537990
Francis Bacon, *The Essays* (Oxford) ISBN: 0192838024
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (Oxford) ISBN: 9780199536849
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Oxford) ISBN: 0199537150
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Oxford) ISBN: 9780199536221
Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, (Broadview) ISBN: 1551117223
Tom Stoppard. *Arcadia* (Faber) ISBN: 0571169341
Ian McEwan, *Enduring Love* (Anchor) 9780385494144
Michael Harvey, *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing* (Hackett)

Selected Texts will be distributed by me in class, and are marked with an * below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Thoughtful Participation in Class Discussion and Attendance. Our classes will be devoted to intensive reading and discussion of the texts. Accordingly, it is vital that you come prepared: *with the book in hand* (and marked up!), and ready to talk, to listen and to engage. Missing more than two classes in the course of the semester will threaten your ability to pass the class; if you do miss class or know that you will have to, please be in touch with me to find out what you missed. You should always bring Michael Harvey's

text on *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing* with you to class, as we will be using it frequently in class.

Short Writing Assignments. On the days indicated below on the syllabus, you will have due a short writing assignment. The forms of these assignments will vary, but in general you will be expected to generate about a single double spaced page of writing per assignment. These assignments should be double spaced and in *Times* font. They should be named according to this format (but substitute your names): “johnsmith.doc” Please submit the assignments to me as “.doc” files by e-mail *before* the class for which they are due.

Quizzes. Periodically, there will be a very short reading quiz at the beginning of class. Quizzes will be unannounced, but should be very easy if you have completed the assigned reading. To wit, prepare by keeping up with the reading. I will drop your lowest quiz grade out when calculating your grade.

2 4-5 Page Papers

I will distribute suggested topics or you may generate your own, Paper are due by email as a “.doc” file by 5pm on the listed date. These assignments should be double-spaced and in *Times* font. They should be named according to this format (but substitute your names): “johnsmith.doc”

Final Revision of One of Your Two Papers

You may decide which paper you wish to revise. You will receive a separate grade on the revision from the grade received on the initial paper. This assignment should be double spaced and in *Times* font. It should be named according to this format (but substitute your names): “johnsmith.doc”

GRADE BREAKDOWN: Class participation and quizzes (25%) Short writing assignments (25 %) First two papers (weighted equally) (35%) Revision (15%) Please note that you must pass all parts of the course—and each individual writing assignment to pass the class.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the passing off of another’s words *or* ideas as your own. It is an extremely serious offense. Cases of plagiarism will be handled according to the University’s policy regarding academic honesty so please, please make sure to read this policy, and always ask if you feel that you are dealing with a gray area. For more information, please see: <http://www.writing.caltech.edu/plagiarism>

LATE PAPERS/ASSIGNMENTS

Under certain extenuating circumstances (eg: serious illness, a research trip, a death in the family) I will grant extensions. To receive an extension, you **MUST** petition well in advance of the paper deadline, and you must have other grounds for seeking it than overwork/poor time management

FALL COURSE SCHEDULE

*Please note that this schedule is subject to amendment as the semester proceeds.

Week One

October 1: Introduction. **In Class Writing Evaluation**

October 3: *Doctor Faustus* (use "A Text" aka the 1604 version of the play)

Week Two

October 8: "Of Truth" "Of Death" "Of Unity in Religion" "Of Simulation and Disimulation" "Of Parents and Children" "Of Marriage and Single Life" "Of Envy" "Of Love" "Of Great Place" "Of Boldness" "Of Goodness and Goodness of Nature" "Of Nobility" "Of Seditious and Troubles" "Of Travel" "Of Empire" "Of Seeming Wise" "Of Friendship" "Of Expense" "Of Customs and Education" "Of Fortune" "Of Usury" "Of Faction" "Of Gardens" in Bacon, *Essays*

October 10: *New Atlantis* **Writing Assignment #1 due**

Week Three

October 15: Book Three of *Gulliver's Travels*

October 17: *Frankenstein*, through volume II

Week Four

October 22: *Frankenstein*, through end

October 24: NO CLASS

Week Five

October 29: **Draft of First 4-5 Page Paper due/bring 3 copies for workshop in class**

October 31: *Selections from *On the Origin of Species*

November 1: **First 4-5 Page Paper due**

Week Six

November 5: * Selected Victorian Poetry ("Hap" "Dover Beach" "The Kraken" Selections from "In Memoriam" "Love versus Learning")

November 7: *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Week Seven

November 12: *The Hound of the Baskervilles* **Writing Assignment #2 due**

November 14: *Selected Poems ("The More Loving One" "Dirge for the New Sunrise" "After Reading a Child's Guide to Modern Physics" "Inexpensive Progress" "Sweeny Among the Nightingales" "In Praise of Limestone") Start *Enduring Love*

Week Eight

November 19: **Draft of Second 4-5 Page Paper due/bring 3 copies for workshop in class**

November 21: *Arcadia*

Week Nine

November 25: **Second 4-5 Page Paper due**

November 26: *Enduring Love* through Chapter 14

November 28: THANKSGIVING NO CLASS

Week Ten

December 3: *Enduring Love* through end

December 5: Conclusion

Week Eleven

December 11: **Final Revision Due**