English 6324 Modern British Fiction

Fall 2020 Syllabus

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Basic Information

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Communication

Please post any questions you have regarding the course by creating a new thread in the **Questions and Answers** forum on the **Discussion Board**. This is a way of communicating with each other; you are not graded for the discussion board in this class. Please look for the answer to your question in the syllabus before you post your question. It may have already been answered. If you need to contact your instructor, you may do via class messages and email. This is the easiest and quickest way to reach me.

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching is founded on the belief that literature is directly related to life, that it captures and represents life in all its complexity--its artistic, historical, psychological and social dimensions. Through works of literature and art, I teach students the means by which they may reach a better understanding of themselves and of others and in the process become social agents of meaningful change. I believe that the study of the past does not merely involve the resurrection of occluded historical or literary figures but the reconstitution of the reader's identity and subjectivity. Intensely aware of the visual essence of our culture, I have made the visual component an integral part of my teaching.

Course Content Description:

This course involves the study of twentieth-century novels within the context of modernism and postmodernism. We will begin by discussing the distinctive features in the sensibility, form and style of modernism, as well as the modernist revolt against traditional literary forms and subjects. We will also study the modernist emphasis on the individual and the inward over the social and the outward, the preference for the unconscious over the self-conscious. We will also explore the tension in the modernist novel between the rejection and the acceptance of the past as well as   the tendency of modern and novelists to see the present through the past.

Our study of modern novels will be often interdisciplinary, involving the exploration of the affinities between narratives and the visual arts, specifically the reconfigurations of paintings into narrative scenes and subjects. We will often focus on the incongruities governing the modern novel between the simultaneous rebellion against past gender constructs and their ineluctable adoption in the present. What are the means through which twentieth British novelists continue to re-draw paintings in their novels and challenge visual representations of men and women? Why do the Pre-Raphaelites still play a major role in modern and postmodern novels? These are some of the questions with which we will be concerned. This course will deepen and enhance your understanding of the interdisciplinary study of literature and will enable you to fathom some of the ideological and gendered contradictions the relation between narrative and painting engendered in nineteenth-century England and continues to generate in modern British novels.

Instructor's Note

Please remember that this is a graduate level course and it will require your commitment and the time you would devote to a face to face graduate course.   As an English major, you are already aware that you cannot complete the readings just during

the weekend, especially when you are reading a novel. You must read a few pages every day so that you do not become overwhelmed with the assignments and give up. I have study questions to which I assign each one of you. Depending on the number of students in the course, you may or may not have to work with others in your response to the questions. You will also be asked to respond to your classmates' responses. In addition each student will be required to give a presentation on a book related to the subject we are studying at the time, or on an artist whose paintings are reconfigured in the novel we are studying at the time.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to do the following:

1. Identify the conflict between past and present values in the modern novel.

2. Demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge of the modern and postmodern British novel.
3. Identify the means by which literary works endorse or undermine contemporary ideology.
4. Discuss the modern British novel through interdisciplinary perspectives.
5. Relate psychological, social and cultural issues in the modern British novel to your own culture.

Course Prerequisites:

Admission in the English M.A. program or 24 undergraduate English hours. No formal prerequisites are required. This course requires an intermediate level of computer skills. In order to take this class, you are expected to be able to save files without losing them, save files in a variety of formats (save as), upload and download files on the internet, use discussion text formatting features, cut and paste and do attachments.

Course Credit: This is a 3 credits course and can be used either as an elective for the M.A. program or as a course fulfilling the British literature requirement.

English M.A. Program Mission

The mission of the department of literature is to provide students with a knowledge of British and American literature written by canonical and noncanonical writers with special attention to poetry, fiction, drama, often with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of literature and on the structure and complexity of the English language. Through

the teaching of literary works of the past and present, the department provides students with opportunities to relate cultural, historical, aesthetic, social and psychological issues of literary works to their own psychological, sociopolitical and cultural conditions today. In the process, students also learn the importance of respecting other people's perspectives in order to achieve social and global harmony.

English M.A. Program Goals

- To train students to work with the materials of literature with scholarly competence and maturity.

- To provide students with a knowledge of major periods, movements, and genres in British and American literature.

- To enhance students' awareness of the cultural contexts of theoretical and literary works.

- To provide rhetorical skills in preparation for such professions as teaching, law, publishing and public relations.

- To empower students by motivating them to increase the knowledge of their field by their own contribution of original work.

Materials

Required Materials:

E.M. Forster, *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (Penguin, 2000)

D. H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (Penguin, 1994)

W. Somerset Maugham, *The Painted Veil* (Vintage, 2004)

Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (Harcourt, 1956)

Recommended Materials

Elizabeth Prettejohn, *The Art of the Pre-Raphaelites* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2000)

Note: There are movie productions of all of the novels we are studying. At times there will be discussion boards on the film production of a novel we study. I suggest that you read the novels before watching the movie productions since the movie productions have changed major or minor parts of the plot of the novels. Here are the film productions we will be discussing:

Where Angels Fear to Tread, starring Rupert Graves, Helena Bonham Carter, 1992

Orlando, starring Tilda Swinton, 1993

Vita & Virginia, starring Gemma Arterton, 2019

Lady Chatterley's Lover, starring Sylvia Kristel, 1982

The Painted Veil, starring Naomi Watts, 2006

Schedule of Assignments

Week 1, Module 1

Week 2, Module 2

 Week 3, Module 3

Week 4, Module 4

Week 5, Module 5

Week 6, Module 6

Week 7, Module 7

Week 8, Module 8

Grading

Blogs (5)	**500 points**	
Journals (4)	**400 points**	
Wikis (4)	**400 points**	
Comments (11)	**1100**	
Paper	**2000**	
Presentations	**1000**	
Total	**5400**	

Grading Scale:

A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%

Class Work Requirements

Introductions: Please use the Introductions forum on the Class Discussion Board to introduce yourself to the class. This should be one of the first things you do in the class so we can get to know each other. You are not required to post a photo or share any personal information unless you want to. Just post whatever you feel comfortable about.

Discussion boards: Each module contains discussion boards; to get full credit, besides responding to the discussion boards, you must also respond to a least two of your classmates' posts. quite often you are asked to comment on other people's work,

with the exception of jour   Brief or cursory responses will not earn full credit.

Paper (1): You will have to submit only one paper at the end of the semester. This paper should follow the format (MLA) and the length (about 10-15 pages) of a scholarly article. Since this paper will include some research, it is important that you complete your reading assignments before the end of the semester and that you begin your research early. Your paper should be interdisciplinary, demonstrating your understanding of some of the intersections of literature and art or literature and music. It should involve one of the works we have studied in this course. I will give you a list of possible topics, but if you would rather work on your own topic, please let me know in advance. You are always welcome to discuss your topic with me via email or come and visit in my office. Hopefully, the germ for your paper will come from our discussions or perhaps from your own presentation or that of a classmate. Germs for projects or theses will also be floating in the course throughout the semester. You must be alert, therefore, at all times! The Paper will be graded according to this Grading Rubric. You may find the rubric when you log in the course.

See the Paper Information button on the course menu for additional instructions and information.

Presentations (1) : Graduate seminars are designed to promote the active participation of graduate students (or teachers) and to facilitate the exchange and enjoyment of various perspectives, approaches and theories that broaden the knowledge of an era, deepen your understanding of works of literary art and, in the case of this course, make you aware of the relationship of literature and the arts.

You must download and watch each presentation submitted by your peers and write a comment in response or ask the presenter a question.

Each student will be responsible for two presentations: One on a scholarly book or an artist and the other one on an opera. Click on the presentations button in the course menu for more information about your presentations.. When giving Power Point presentations, include an outline rather than the entire text of your presentation. Record your presentation following that outline. You may follow my presentation on the Pre-Raphaelites, which I give at the beginning of the course.

If your presentation involves the work of an artist, you will need reproductions of the paintings you discuss. Following copyright regulations, always include the website under each one of the pictures you discuss. And if your presentation involves an opera, you must have links to scenes in that opera to share its highlights with your classmates.

Communication, Grading & Feedback:

My preferred method of contact is through course messages. I respond to student messages within 48 hours M-F. I grade assignments within 48-72 hours after they have been posted or before the new assignments are due. And I provide individual feedback with my grades.

Time Management:

Depending on your reading skills, you should expect to spend 5-7 hours each week studying for this course.

Policies

Discussion Board

Discussion Board is primarily for discussing course related topics and issues.
Best practices are:

- Read all message postings in online discussion.

- Respond to the question directly

- Reply to minimum of two other student posts.

- Use a person's name in the body of your message when you reply to their message.

- Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc.

- Ensure responses to questions are meaningful, reflective.

- Support statements with concepts from course readings, refer to personal experience, examples.

- Follow **Rules of Behavior (below).**

Rules of Behavior

Discussion areas are public to every student in this class (including your instructor) who will see what you write. Please pay attention to the language you use and adhere to the

following guidelines:

- Do not post anything too personal.

- Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting or prejudicial in gender, race, or ethnicity.

- Do not use all caps in the message box unless you are emphasizing (it is considered shouting).

- Be courteous and respectful to other people on the list

- Do not overuse acronyms like you would use in text messaging. Some of the list participants may not be familiar with acronyms.

- Use line breaks and paragraphs in long responses.

- Write your full name at the end of the posting.

- Be careful with sarcasm and subtle humor; one person's joke is another person's insult.

Make-Up/Late Submission Policy

Late discussion board postings and papers will not be accepted. Computers are not always reliable, so be sure to have a back-up plan and don't leave your work till the last minute. Always make extra file copies of your work and double check to see that attachments have attached. All due dates are firm. Being sick or having computer problems doesn't excuse you from class work or assignments. Late assignments will not receive points. It's important to contact me in advance if you are having problems. The office of Student Services and the University Counseling Center can also help if you are having personal issues that interfere with your school work.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism/Cheating

The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and investigated. A student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an "F" for the course.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the [University's Handbook:Scholastic Dishonesty](#).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit.

Attendance and Class Participation

Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. Students will log on a minimum of three times every seven days. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise.

Tracking

Learning management systems have tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.

Absenteeism

All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of emergency medical situation.

Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal

All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals consult the University Handbook: Drops and Withdrawals and Appeal Process.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities. Only those students, who an Instructor has received an official Letter of Accommodation (LOA) sent by the Office of ADA for Students, will be provided ADA academic accommodations.

> **ADA Officer for Students**: Mr. Paul Leverington
> **Address:** Mesa Building 4242/4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762
> **Voice Telephone:** 432-552-4696
> **Email:** ada@utpb.edu

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to Accessibility and Privacy Statements.

Computer Skills, Technical & Software Requirements

Students will need to be able to create word processing documents, save files and submit files.

Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information refer to UTPB Office 365 Page.

Computer Technical Requirements

See Technical Requirements.

Online Student Authentication

UTPB requires that each student who registers for an online course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. To access online courses students must login to the UTPB learning management system using their unique personal identifying username and secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. This course satisfies the second method of student authentication by submission of an authentication assignment.

*Approved up to date photo identifications are: passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD. Dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

Please provide through the assignment drop box:

A clear image of yourself

In color

1. Well lit, and no shadows on your face or your ID that can obscure your image

2. Must be taken on the day you submit the photo to reflect your current appearance

3. Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera

4. With a neutral facial expression and both eyes open

5. Then a picture of your ID with only your name and picture showing (Picture ID card in which the ID number has been covered (tape over any numbers).

I just need to see you, then the image of you on the card with your name. Make sure to attach both image files in either JPEG or PNG format to the assignment BEFORE you submit it.

Preparation for Emergencies

Computer Crash

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be

considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Complete Loss of Contact

If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor, and leave message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.

Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end of course evaluation survey provided by UTPB. During the last two weeks of class, there will be an announcement in Canvas, an email, and a button in your course navigation that will take you to any available surveys.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
ADA Accommodation/ Support	Services for Students with Disabilities (432) 552-4696

Testing Services	Testing Services & Academic Accommodations Department
	(432) 552-2630
Advising	(432) 552-2661
	UTPB Academic Advising Center
Bookstore	UTPB Campus Bookstore
	(432) 552-0220
Email, Office 365, my.utpb.edu	Information Technology
Financial Aid and Scholarship	UTPB Financial Aid
	(432) 552-2620
Library	The J. Conrad Dunagan Library Online at (432) 552-2370
Registrar	UTPB Registrar
	(432) 552-2635
Student Services	Student Services
	(432) 552-2600
Technical Support	Canvas
	1-866-437-0867
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course).

Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

Copyright Statement

Many of the materials that are posted within UTPB courses are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for the purpose of the course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

Instructor's Note

 I will frequently make announcements related to the assignments. Begin each module by reading the posted announcement. You may now begin the course by reading the announcement, introducing yourself and by completing the work in Module 1.