

English W3274, Fall 2009: Modern British Literature 1900-1950

Edward Mendelson
Hamilton 717, Tues, Thurs 9:10-10:25

Office: Philosophy 614, Tues 4-6, Thurs 11-12
em36@columbia.edu, x4-6417

Requirements: Three *brief* papers (700-800 words each); a ninety-minute final exam; regular attendance. For further details, see the other side of this page.

- Sep. 8** Introductory
10, 15, 17 Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* [1891] (Oxford)
22 Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* [1899] (Avon)
24 Yeats, *Selected Poems and Four Plays* (Macmillan)
The Stolen Child; Down by the Salley Gardens; The Lake Isle of Innisfree; Who Goes With Fergus?; The Hosting of the Sidhe; Adam's Curse; No Second Troy; The Mask; Upon a House Shaken by the Land Agitation;
29 Pardon Old Fathers; September 1913; To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Nothing; Paudeen; The Magi; The Dolls; A Coat; The Wild Swans at Coole; In Memory of Major Robert Gregory; An Irish Airman Foresees His Death; The Fisherman; On Being Asked for a War Poem; Among School Children
- Oct. 1** The Phases of the Moon; Easter 1916; Demon and Beast; The Second Coming; A Prayer for My Daughter; Sailing to Byzantium; Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen; Leda and the Swan
6 Among School Children; For Anne Gregory; The Choice; Byzantium; Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop; Lapis Lazuli; The Statues; News for the Delphic Oracle; The Circus Animals' Desertion
Oct. 8: first paper due
8, 13 Conrad, *The Secret Agent* [1907] (Oxford)
15, 20 Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* [1916] (Penguin)
22 Shaw, *Heartbreak House* [1919] (Penguin)
Oct. 27: no class
29 Eliot, *The Waste Land and Other Poems* (Penguin)
The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock; Portrait of a Lady; Preludes; Sweeney Among the Nightingales
Nov. 5: second paper due
- Nov. 5, 10** (Eliot, continued) *The Waste Land*
Nov. 12, 17, 19 Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* [1925] (Harcourt)
24 Auden, *Selected Poems* (Vintage) and poems distributed in class
Control of the passes..., "O where are you going?" said reader to rider; O what is that sound; A shilling life will give you all the facts; Lay your sleeping head, my love; Spain
- Dec. 1** Musée des Beaux Arts; Epitaph on a Tyrant; In Memory of W. B. Yeats; September 1, 1939; The Shield of Achilles; Woods; Lakes
3 Horae Canonicae (all seven poems)
Dec. 8: third paper due
8 Lakes; Woods; Homage to Clio; River Profile; Archaeology
10 Concluding

Requirements for Modern British Literature 1900-1950:

Three brief, intelligent, and interesting papers (700 to 800 words *maximum*), due on **October 8**, **November 5**, and **December 8**. *Any paper longer than 900 words will get a grade of F.* Begin each paper by discussing a brief passage (two or three lines *at most*) from one of the works assigned during the preceding few weeks; you should then proceed to expand on the meaning and larger significance of the passage in terms of the work as a whole or the author's work as a whole, or any other larger context that you choose. You don't need to worry about any rigid rules, but by the end of the paper you should have placed the brief passage into a larger context in the same book or the same author's work. The brief passage must be taken *from* a poem, novel, or play; it must not be a complete poem. Type the brief passage separately *between* the title of your paper and your opening sentence so it looks like an epigraph. Of course, you may also quote the same passage (or anything else by the same author or anyone else) later in the paper, but the quotation *must* first appear between your title and first sentence.

At the start of your paper, you should interpret or otherwise illuminate the *specific words of the quotation* (not merely by paraphrasing it), perhaps with reference to the author's themes and concerns. Begin your discussion of the actual words in the *very first sentence* of your paper. Of course it should continue into later sentences, but it must *begin* in the first sentence. Do *not* begin the paper with vague, empty, boring, English-paper-style generalizations of the kind that you may have learned to write in high-school or in other college classes.

Possibly one or two ten-minute surprise quizzes; these will not seriously affect your grade.

The final exam will last 90 minutes, not the standard three hours, in the same room as the lectures. The "projected university examination schedule" indicates that the exam will take place on Thursday, December 17 at 9 a.m. The university may change that date, so be careful to check it later in the term.

Absolutely no cell phones, laptops, messaging devices, netbooks, PDAs or similar devices, pagers, iPods, MP3 players, video players, portable televisions, still or video cameras, sound recorders, headphones, or global positioning devices; absolutely no electronic devices of any kind unless required for medical reasons. Silent wristwatches only. Absolutely no baseball caps; no head coverings of any kind unless required by your religion or for medical reasons. No passive-aggressive questions (for example, the kind that begin "My problem with this book is" or "Speaking as a"). Bathroom visits during class are strongly discouraged.