



Instructor: Siobhan O'Flynn

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Course Number: ENG140Y5Y (L0201)

Course Title: Literature for Our Time

Course description: Why literature? In an age of communication mediated by emergent new forms of digital media (blogs, social networks, and user-generated content proliferating on YouTube and MySpace), why spend time with the static/passive medium of the printed text? This course examines the richness of literary works in the twentieth and twenty-first century as a mode of response to periods of social upheaval and as a vehicle to imagine alternate futures (both positive and dystopic). In considering modernist and postmodernist literature, we will pay particular attention to the relationship of place and identity, and the experience of displacement that defines many of the works we will read. And, we will consider literature as a form that requires the reader to engage critically with a complexity and narrative depth achieved through intertextuality (the adaptation and reconfiguration of previous forms and works). The course will familiarize students with key literary terms and discourses.

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Required Reading:

Woolf, *Orlando* (Harcourt); Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*; Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Faber); McCarthy, *The Road*; Hemingway, *In Our Time*; Mariko Tamaki, *Skim*; The Norton of Anthology of English Literature Vol F: The Twentieth Century and After: Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*; Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*; Selected Poetry (Eliot, Walcott, Yeats, Plath, Heaney, others TBA); Woolf, essays; Naipaul, "One Out of Many."

First Texts to be Studied: Poems from the Norton Anthology - TBA on course website August; *In Our Time*; *The Road*

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion.

Method of Evaluation:

4 short exercises (20%); 2 short assignments (20%); Essay thesis (5%); Essay (20%); Exam (35%)