

Instructor: Siobhan O’Flynn

Course: ENG 140Y L0101

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.

Required Reading:

Woolf, *Orlando*

Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

Hemingway, *In Our Time*

McCarthy, *The Road*

Mariko Tamaki, *Skim*

The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Vol. F The Twentieth Century and After 0-393-92722-9 • paperback

The following works are in the Norton Anthology:

Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*; Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*; Selected Poetry (Eliot, Walcott, Yeats, Plath, Heaney, others TBA); Woolf, essays; Naipaul, “One Out of Many.”

Other texts TBA

First Three Texts to be Studied: Eliot’s “Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and “Hollow Men,” *Heart of Darkness*

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion

Method of Evaluation:	4 short exercises	20%
	2 short essays	20%
	Essay thesis	5%
	Essay	20%
	Exam	35%