

ENG140Y5Y- Fall 2009

Instructor: Cary DiPietro

Course number: ENG140Y5Y

Course title: Literature for Our Time

Course description: What does literature of the last century tell us about ourselves and our world? Is “our time” marked by displacement, exploitation, ecological devastation, global-scale war and racial division? Or is it more hopeful, a time of technological innovation, diversity, prosperity and gender equality? Are the consequences of global modernity positive, or negative, or both? In this course we will explore how writers of the past century have responded to and informed our experience of the world. Through the year, we will consider the major forms of poetry, drama and prose, while we also give emphasis to a number of topical areas such as the stylistic inventions of modernism and the avant-garde, the colonial and postcolonial experience, gender and sexuality, and utopia and science fiction.

Required Reading: selected poetry (coursepack); Shaw, *Pygmalion* (in *Pygmalion and Major Barbara*, Bantam Classics); Beckett, *Happy Days* (coursepack), *Waiting for Godot* (Grove Press); Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*; Thomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters*; Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (coursepack); Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Heinemann); selected short stories (coursepack); Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (Penguin).

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: selected poetry (coursepack); Shaw, *Pygmalion* (in *Pygmalion and Major Barbara*, Bantam Classics); Beckett, *Happy Days* (coursepack).

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion

Method of Evaluation: A minimum of four writing assignments (40%); end-of-term test (5%); participation (10%); information literacy exercise (10%); and final exam (35%).