

English 350: Virginia Woolf and Modernism
MW 4:00-5:15
Rachel Trousdale
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Office 307 Buttrick, x.6209
Office hours MW 2:30-3:45, T 1:30-3:00, and by appointment

In this course we will study Virginia Woolf's work and its place in the Modernist canon. We will discuss Woolf's work in its literary and historical context, treating Woolf both as a groundbreaking artist and as a member of a larger movement. Topics will include realism, experimental writing, the literary tradition in Modernism, the woman artist, World War I, and the relationship between novels and the visual arts.

Texts:

Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" and poems (available on Blackboard)
HD, *Selected Poems*
Forster, *Howards End* (1910)
Woolf, *Jacob's Room* (1922)
 Mrs. Dalloway (1925)
 To The Lighthouse (1927)
 Flush (1933)
 A Room of One's Own (1929)
 Orlando (1928)
 Between the Acts (1941)

Wednesday, January 14: Introduction

M 19 MLK day

W 21: Eliot, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, Portrait of a Lady, Gerontion, Sweeney Among the Nightingales

M 26: Forster, *Howards End* Chapters 1-14 **Presentation:** Social Uplift

W 28: *Howards End* Chapters 15-28 **Presentation:** The Bloomsbury Group

M February 2 *Howards End* Chapter 29-end

W 4: *Jacob's Room* Chapters 1-7 **Presentation:** World War I

M 9: *Jacob's Room* Chapter 8-end

W 11: *Mrs. Dalloway* pp. 3-64 **Presentation:** Shell shock

M 16: *Mrs. Dalloway* 64-128 **Presentation:** Freud and the Unconscious

W 18: *Mrs. Dalloway* 128-194

M 23: *To The Lighthouse* The Window: I-IX **Presentation:** Modernist Painting

W 25: *To The Lighthouse* The Window: X-XVII

F 27: Paper # 1 (4-6 pp) due by 3:00

M 2: *To The Lighthouse* The Window: XVIII-The Lighthouse: III **Presentation:** The Country House

W 4: *To The Lighthouse* The Lighthouse IV-end

M 9: SPRING BREAK

W 11: SPRING BREAK

M 16: *Orlando* pp. 13-118 **Presentation:** Vita Sackville-West

W 18: *Orlando* pp. 119-226 **Presentation:** Experimental Writing and Feminism

M 23: *Orlando* pp. 227-329

W 25: HD: Sea Rose, Sea Lily, Evening, Sheltered Garden, Sea Poppies, Garden, Sea Violet, Orchard, Sea Gods, Storm, Sea Iris, Hermes of the Ways, Pear Tree, Oread

M 30: Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent"

W April 1: *A Room of One's Own* **Presentation:** Woolf and Cambridge

M 6: *Flush* Chap. 1-4 **Presentation:** Elizabeth Barrett Browning

W 8: *Flush* Chap. 5-6

F 10: Easter break

M 13: *Between the Acts* 1-74 **Presentation:** Shakespeare

W 15: *Between the Acts* 75-148 **Due in class:** one-page prospectus and preliminary bibliography for final paper.

M 20: *Between the Acts* 148-219

W 22: Classes cancelled: SpARC

M 27: Course Summary

W 29 (reading day): Paper #2 (16-20 pages) due by 3:00

Course requirements:

Papers: Students will write two essays: one shorter (4-6 pp) and one longer (16-20 pp). Each essay will be a critical analysis of a single work; the longer one will include critical, contextual, and/or theoretical research.

Presentations will cover one aspect of the historical, literary, or biographical context of one of the novels, and argue for how that context can inform or change our reading. Presentations should be approximately 10-15 minutes long, accompanied by a 1-2 page handout detailing the most important points and sources for future reference. Students may work individually or in pairs. Be sure you consult with me well ahead of your presentation.

Reading questions: For every class, students should bring in a question about that day's reading. Questions should be geared towards generating class discussion and paper topics.

Attendance policy:

This class centers around discussion. If you don't participate in discussions, whether by contributing or listening to your peers, you haven't really taken the class. You will be allowed three absences over the course of the semester, but after that each absence will result in a reduction of the final grade by one third of a letter grade. Excessive lateness will also result in a reduced final grade. This will be true even when students have legitimate reasons for missing class. Bear in mind that the participation grade is not based on attendance; it's based on how you behave (listening, contributing to discussions, handing in substantive reading questions) once you show up.

Late paper policy:

You may have a two-day extension (i.e., from Friday to Monday) on one paper, no questions asked. Beyond that, late papers will incur a penalty of one third of a grade per day past deadline. Most importantly, let me know if you're going to hand a paper in late. Presentations may only be postponed in case of genuine emergency (serious illness, etc) and postponements may require a change of topic.

Honor Code:

Students are expected to abide by the Agnes Scott College Honor Code. Plagiarism—the unattributed use, in any form, of someone else's work—is a very serious offence which can result in failure or even expulsion, so be scrupulous in your documentation, and always make clear the difference between your own ideas and those of others. Students convicted by Honor Court of plagiarism will, in addition to any penalties Honor Court may assess, automatically fail the class. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about citation, or if you run into trouble working on an assignment.

Grading:

Paper #1: 25%

Paper #2: 40%

Presentation: 25%.

Participation and reading questions: 10%.

Revisions:

Talk to me if you would like to revise the first paper. The grade for a revision will replace the grade for the original paper (except in the very unlikely case that the second grade is lower, in which case you will retain your original grade). Revisions must be substantive, based on careful reconsideration of the paper's argument. (Going through and fixing awkward sentences is not a revision, it's proofreading.) If you wish to revise a paper, you must meet with me within one week of when I returned the original paper to you. In most cases, revisions must be handed in at within two weeks of our conversation. Please note that this is *not* an opportunity to treat the original deadline as a "draft" deadline; if what you hand in initially is clearly unfinished, I will consider it late until you give me a

finished product. For reasons of time, I cannot accept revisions of the final paper. I will also not accept revisions of papers which received an A-, because life is too short.

Office hours and how to reach me:

I hold walk-in office hours every Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:45 and Tuesday from 1:30-3:00. If you can't make those times, I will be very glad to schedule extra appointments. Come to discuss paper topics, to ask questions about the class, to get help with a confusing text, etc. To make an appointment, or for any other contact, it's best to e-mail me at rtrousdale@agnesscott.edu.

Writing Center:

Use the writing center! Make an appointment online via the link at <http://www.agnesscott.edu/academics/centerforwritingandspeaking>. Their web site, http://writing_center.agnesscott.edu, has useful information and handouts.