

English 221: Developments in the Novel
TTh 2:00-3:15
Rachel Trousdale
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Office 307 Buttrick, x6209
Office hours T 11-12, TTh 1-2, and by appointment

This course is about literary history and genre. What forms and conventions do we expect in a novel, and why? Where do those conventions come from, and how have they changed? How can a novel use those forms without becoming formulaic? How do writers refer to and build on the work of their predecessors? This course will focus primarily on texts which might be termed romances or adventures, most of them popular (and some scandalous) in their day. We will discuss how books draw on, critique, subvert, transcend, or revel in their literary contexts. These discussions will touch on narrative convention, the fictional construction of gender, authorial persona in the text, and the changing nature of heroism. In the process, students will learn both literary history and something about the history of criticism, as we look at other critics' assessments of the novels we read and how those assessments, in turn, help shape future writing and reading.

Voltaire, *Candide* (1759)
Nikolai Gogol, "The Nose" (1836)
Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary* (1857)
George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1874)
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (1928)
Isak Dinesen, "The Deluge at Norderney" (1934)
Ian McEwan, *Atonement* (2001)

January:
Thurs 19: Introduction

T 24: *Candide* Chap 1-18
Th 26: *Candide* Chap 19-end

T 31: "The Nose"
Th Feb 2: *Madame Bovary* 1-61 (through 2:II)
F 3: **Article critique due**

T 7: *Madame Bovary* 61-134 (through 2:XI)
Th 9: *Madame Bovary* 134-201 (through 3:V)

T 14: *Madame Bovary* 201-end
Th 16: *Middlemarch*: Prelude-Chap XII (12)
F 17: **Paper 1 due: 4-5 pp**

T 21: *Middlemarch* Chap XIII-XXII (13-22)

Th 23: *Middlemarch* Chap XXIII-XXXVI (23-36)

T 28: *Middlemarch* Chap XXXVII-XLVII (37-47)

Th March 1: *Middlemarch* Chap XLVIII-LVIII (48-58)

T 6: *Middlemarch* Chap LIX-LXX (59-70)

Th 8: *Middlemarch* Chap LXXI-end

T 13: SPRING BREAK

Th 15: SPRING BREAK

T 20: *Kim* Chap 1-5

Th 22: *Kim* Chap 6-10

T 27: *Kim* Chap 11-end

Th 29: *Orlando* pp. 13-118

F 30: **Paper 2 due: 4-5 pp**

T April 3: *Orlando* pp. 119-226

Th 5: *Orlando* pp. 227-329

T 10: “The Deluge at Norderney”

Th 12: *Atonement* Chapters 1-7

T 17: *Atonement* Chapters 8-12

Th 19: *Atonement* through page 299

T 24: *Atonement* through page 405

Th 26: *Atonement* through the end

T May 1: Final discussion

In lieu of exam: **Paper 3 due: 8-10 pp**

Course requirements:

Students will write a brief (2-page) critique of a critical article, two shorter (4-5 page) papers, and a longer (8-10 page) paper. The longer paper should engage with at least two critical or theoretical sources.

Reading questions:

For every class, students should bring in at least one 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 one three-day extension (i.e., from Friday to Monday) on any paper, no questions asked. After that, late papers are subject to a penalty of one third of a grade per day past deadline. Exceptions can sometimes be made for genuine emergencies. ("I'm a perfectionist" is not an emergency; "I'm in the hospital" is.) Most importantly, let me know if you're going to hand a paper in late. All major assignments must be completed to pass the course.

Grading percentages:

Class participation and reading questions: 10%

Critique: 5%

Paper #1: 25 %

Paper #2: 25%

Paper #3: 35%

Revisions:

Talk to me if you would like to revise the first and/or the second 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 least one week prior to the deadline for the subsequent paper. 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.

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.

Course evaluations:

Towards the end of the semester, you will receive an e-mail asking you to submit an electronic evaluation of this course. Course evaluations are very important to me, to the department, and to the administration of the school as a whole. I take your feedback very seriously and will use it to improve both this course the next time I teach it and my teaching as a whole.

Office hours and how to reach me:

I will hold walk-in office hours T 11-12, TTh 1-2. If you can't make those times, I will be very glad to schedule extra appointments. Come talk about the papers, or about confusing texts, or to continue an argument we've started in class. To make an appointment, or to ask questions, the best way to reach me is by e-mail: 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.