

E314L- w (Plan I Honors) Unique #: 34280
Fall 2009 -- Literary Contests and Contexts: "REWRITINGS, REREADINGS"

Class hrs: T and Th 9:30 – 11, in MEZ 2.202

Instructor: Professor Barchas

Office: Calhoun 209

Office hours: Th 12:30-3:00

E-mail: barchas@mail.utexas.edu

Office phone and voicemail: 471-8379

Note: this is a freshmen Honors Seminar with a Substantial Writing Component

Course Description:

Designed for potential English majors who are already in the Honors I program, this course is directed toward developing and honing critical reading, writing, and research skills while also giving an overview of the critical "toolbox" available to students of literature in the field of English. We will focus on three major fictions written between 1700 and 1850 (by Defoe, Swift, and Brontë) that have not only inspired each other but generated clusters of later fictional rewritings by writers almost as famous (Coetzee, du Maurier, Ryss, and Perkins-Gilman). In our study of intertextuality, our reading will loosely track the development of the novel genre over several centuries as well as the compounding influence(s) of early writers upon later ones. We will also consider several key film "adaptations," including Hitchcock's *Rebecca*, since these, too, constitute critical and cultural interpretations of a sort. For each central work that we study, we will examine its formalist elements (there will be visits to the HRC to work with original editions), historical contexts, and the cultural contests it has inspired, particularly in the form of rewritings. Students will be introduced to research tools such as the OED, MLA Bibliography, and the DNB, as well as primary text databases such as ECCO, 19-C, and LION. Secondary criticism will expose students to a wide range of approaches to these works trialed by others, likely including Marxist, Feminist, Psychoanalytic, and Textual Studies.

Required Texts [these are available from the Co-Op Bookstore on Guadalupe]:

Daniel Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , ed. Schinagel (Norton edition)	1719 first edn
J. M. Coetzee, <i>Foe</i> (Penguin)	1986
Jonathan Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , ed. Rivero (Norton)	1726
Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> (Penguin)	1847
Daphne du Maurier, <i>Rebecca</i>	1938
Jean Ryss, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , ed. Raiskin (Norton)	1993

Additional texts:

Film: <i>Rebecca</i> , directed by Alfred Hitchcock	1940
Short story: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"	1892

Class Schedule:

Wk 1: August 27	Th, introductions
Wk 2: Sept 1 & 3	<i>Robinson Crusoe (1719)</i> – get at least 1/2-way
Wk 3: Sept 8 & 10	<i>Crusoe cont.</i> – for T finish reading to end. T, discuss short critical essays by Gildon and Woolf Th, discuss critical essay by Ian Watt

Wk 4: Sept 15 & 17	T, <i>Foe</i> ; <u>your OED essay due</u> Th, <i>Foe</i> cont. Casting ahead: <u>pick topic for research summary report Oct-Nov.</u>
Wk 5: Sept 22 & 24	T, lecture on Writing Well Th, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (1722), Bks I and II
Wk 6: Sept 29 & Oct 1	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Book IV [not book III]
Wk 7: Oct 6 & 8	disc of <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> and critical essays in Norton edn
Wk 8: Oct 13 & 15	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , read at least Ch 1-3
Wk 9: Oct 20 & 22	<i>Jane Eyre</i> through charade scene (Vol. II, ch. 3)
Wk 10: Oct 27 & 29	<i>Jane Eyre</i> to end
Wk 11: Nov 3 & 5	“The Yellow Wallpaper”
Wk 12: Nov 10 & 12	<i>Rebecca</i>
Wk 13: Nov 17 & 19	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
Wk 14: Nov 24	T, Screening of <i>Rebecca</i> , 1940 film directed by Hitchcock Th, THANKSGIVING – no class today.
Wk 15: Dec 1 & 3	T, <i>film adaptations considered</i> . Bring your notes. Th, final reckonings & <u>research essay due</u> ; debriefing

Written Assignments (conforms to SWC requirements):

(10%) **OED writing assignment on Defoe**

(15%) **Rewriting assignment**

(15%) **ECCO primary text research report/annotated bibliography on Swift**

(20%) **Presentation to the class and research report on Brontë**

(30%) **Research essay**

(10%) **Attendance/Participation**

Grading Policy addendum: Plus/minus grades will be given in this class.

Blackboard: Students will have access to the course's Blackboard site through UT Direct. A number of the scholarly databases introduced in this class (OED, ECCO, LION, etc) will be linked to the class website, although all are available through the main library's electronic "Resources by Subject" links.

Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and will be dealt with harshly. Failure to give proper credit for a source (paper or internet) will result in an automatic zero for the assignment as well as, most likely, an F in the class.

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments and/or accommodation for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of

the Dean of Students at 471-6259. Please let me know if you are in dialogue with the SSD office and I will strive to help.