

Backgrounds of Modern Literature
English 344L
Class Unique Number: 34835

Spring 2010
PAR 206
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-6:30pm

Instructor: David Kornhaber
Office: Parlin 22
Email: david.kornhaber@mail.utexas.edu
Office phone: 512-471-8712

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 7:15 – 8:15pm

I. Description

In his 1905 preface to *Major Barbara*, George Bernard Shaw speaks of an intellectual "world movement" with proponents from Darwin to Nietzsche that had altered the scientific and philosophical thought of the nineteenth century and was in the process of transforming the literature of the next century as well. In this course, we will examine some of the central thinkers and texts of the 1800s and early 1900s that helped to lay the intellectual groundwork for the revolution in literary form and content known as Modern Literature. Ranging across science, philosophy, psychology, and politics, we will look at how a series of revolutionary ideas transformed contemporary notions of morality, consciousness, and even time and space themselves and how these intellectual developments ultimately shaped and were reflected in the new literary structures and thematics of the twentieth century. Major thinkers to be addressed in this class include Marx, Darwin, Nietzsche, and Freud. For our literary readings we will consider work across genres, with a special emphasis on dramatic literature as a tradition particularly engaged with philosophy and social thought. A background in philosophy is not required, and the course assumes no prior study in this area.

II. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy:
 - a. Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time
 - **Missed Classes:** In the event you must miss a class, you can do so on 3 instances without it affecting your final grade. These 3 missed classes do not need to be excused, but please let me know of your absence as far in advance as possible. Beyond these 3 classes, all absences must be excused. Reasons for excused absences include illness (with doctor's note), team sports or approved activities, and family emergencies. Any unexcused absences beyond the allowed 3 missed classes will lower your final class grade by 1/3 of a letter.
 - **Religious Holy Days:** By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

2. Course Readings/Materials:
 - a. Please refer to the end of this syllabus for a full list of required course readings
 - b. Additional readings and materials may also be provided by the instructor in the form of handouts or electronic attachments throughout the course

3. Assignments, Assessment, and Evaluation
 - a. Term papers and other assignments are due at the start of class on the dates listed in the Tentative Course Schedule unless otherwise rescheduled by the instructor
 - b. Unless arrangements for an extension are made in advance with the instructor, late papers or assignments will be marked down 1/3 of a letter for every class period they are late
 - c. All assignments and due dates listed are subject to change with notice from the instructor to better suit class development and progression

III. Grading Procedures:

Grades will be based on:

- (a) Class Participation / Reading Quizzes 15%
- (b) Short essay #1 (5 pages) 25%
- (c) Short essay #2 (5 pages) 25%
- (d) Long essay (8-10 pages) 35%

Participation will be evaluated based on periodic reading quizzes and frequency of engagement in the classroom discussion. Engagement does not, however, mean verbal expression for its own sake. Active listening and responding to peers are critical components of classroom engagement. There is no particular quota for discussion contributions; rather the expectation is that all students will be continuously engaged in listening and responding to one another's thoughts and opinions.

A list of potential topics for short and long essays will be distributed by the instructor prior to the due date for each assignment. Students are welcome to develop their own paper topics for any of the assigned essays but must receive approval from the instructor for their topic prior to beginning the paper. Papers will be evaluated not only on the quality of the ideas and supporting analysis presented but also on the effectiveness of the organization and communication of those ideas. More specific expectations will be discussed in class at the time that paper topics are distributed. Any student with questions regarding paper expectations should speak individually with the instructor prior to beginning the paper.

For each of the short papers, students will be assigned a revision partner; partners will exchange papers with one another prior to the submission date and provide peer feedback for each other. In addition, students will be able to select one of the two short papers to revise for a new grade based on instructor feedback and direction, if they so choose.

IV. Other University Notices and Policies

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Documented Disability Statement

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
- Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).
- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

V. Tentative Course Schedule:

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Date	Main Topic(s)	Work to do at home Readings – to be completed before class	Assignments
T 1/19	Introduction		
TH 1/21	Childs, <i>Modernism</i> (selections)	• Read <i>Modernism</i> Introduction & Chapter 1	
T 1/26	Darwin, <i>The Origin of Species</i> (selections)	• Read <i>The Origin of Species</i> selections	
TH 1/28	Darwin, <i>The Origin of Species</i> (selections)	• Read <i>The Origin of Species</i> selections	
T 2/2	Darwin, <i>The Descent of Man</i> (selections)	• Read <i>The Descent of Man</i> selections	
TH 2/4	Darwin, <i>The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals</i> (selections)	• Read <i>The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals</i> selections	
T 2/9	Strindberg, <i>The Father</i>	• Read <i>The Father</i>	
TH 2/11	Rice, <i>The Adding Machine</i>	• Read <i>The Adding Machine</i>	
T 2/16	Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	• Read <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	
TH 2/18	Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> (selections)	• Read <i>The German Ideology</i> selections	
T 2/23	Marx, <i>Capital</i> (selections)	• Read <i>Capital</i> selections	
TH 2/25	Marx, <i>Capital</i> (selections)	• Read <i>Capital</i> selections	
T 3/2	O'Neill, <i>The Hairy Ape</i>	• Read <i>The Hairy Ape</i>	
TH 3/4	Brecht, <i>A Man's a Man</i>	• Read <i>A Man's a Man</i>	
T 3/9	Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense"	• Read "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense"	Short Paper #1 due
TH 3/11	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (selections)	• Read <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (selections)	
T 3/16	Spring Break – No Class		
TH 3/18	Spring Break – No Class		
T 3/23	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (selections)	• Read <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (selections)	
TH 3/25	Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (selections)	• Read <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> (selections)	
T 3/30	Shaw, <i>Major Barbara</i>	• Read <i>Major Barbara</i>	
TH 4/1	O'Neill, <i>Lazarus Laughed</i>	• Read <i>Lazarus Laughed</i>	
T 4/6	Eliot, <i>The Wasteland</i>	• Read <i>The Wasteland</i>	
TH 4/8	Freud, <i>On Dreams</i> (selections)	• Read <i>On Dreams</i> selections	Short Paper #2 due
T 4/13	Freud, <i>On Narcissism; Repression; The Unconscious</i> (selections)	• Read <i>On Narcissism; Repression; The Unconscious</i> selections	
TH 4/15	Freud, <i>The Ego and the Id</i> (selections)	• Read <i>The Ego and the Id</i> selections	

Date	Main Topic(s)	Work to do at home Readings – to be completed before class	Assignments
T 4/20	Freud, <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> (selections)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> selections 	
TH 4/22	O’Neill, <i>Strange Interlude</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Strange Interlude</i> 	
T 4/27	Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Ulysses</i> 	
TH 4/29	Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Ulysses</i> 	
T 5/4	Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 	
TH 5/6	Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>To the Lighthouse</i> 	
F 5/14	---	---	Final Paper due

Required Books

The books below are available at the University Co-Op.



The following book is available online.

Peter Childs. *Modernism*. 2nd ed. Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, 2007. Available as an e-book through the UT Library Catalogue at:

<http://catalog.lib.utexas.edu/search~S29?/achilds%2C+peter/achilds+peter/1%2C2%2C20%2CB/frameset&FF=achilds+peter&4%2C%2C8/indexsort=->