English 343L: Backgrounds of Modern Literature
Parlin 304 MWF 10-11
Professor Neil Nehring, Parlin 23. Office Hours: M,W 12:30-1:30, F 11-12

343L. Backgrounds of Modern Literature. A survey of influential ideas about art and literature written between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Prerequisite: Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing. The subject of each class meeting may be determined from the assigned reading for the day (see following). The instructor retains the right to vary this syllabus.

Grading Policy: Because participation contributes to the class grade, attendance is strongly encouraged. Plus/minus grades will be given, and determined on the following basis: Term Paper=85%; Class Contribution=15%.

Requirements and Assignments: Students will write 2 papers of 6-7 pages apiece, which will be combined with a third 6-7-page essay into a single term paper of 18-25 pages.

Required Texts (available at the University Co-op):
Bertolt Brecht, Threepenny Opera
Andre Breton, Nadja
Greil Marcus, Lipstick Traces
Other readings are in Library Reserves.

Students will have access to the course's Blackboard site through UT Direct.

The term paper is due by the date and time that the final exam schedule lists for our class period.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Provisional Schedule (subject to alteration upon notice by the instructor):
W 20 Jan.: First day of class
F 22 Jan.: Woodmansee, The Author, Art, and the Market.
M 25 Jan.: Kant, Critique of Judgment.
W 27 Jan.: Wilson, Axel's Castle.
F 29 Jan.: Graňa, Bohemian Versus Bourgeois.
M 1 Feb.: Baudelaire: Painter of Modern Life
W 3 Feb.: Baudelaire, Art in Paris 149-55.
F 5 Feb.: Sinfield, Literature, Politics and Culture.
M 8 Feb.: Avrich, Anarchist Portraits.
W 10 Feb. / F 12 Feb.: Lautréamont, Les Chants des Maldoror.
M 15 Feb.: Lautréamont, Poésies.
W 17 Feb.: Clark, Painting of Modern Life.
F 19 Feb.: Shattuck, The Banquet Years.
M 22 Feb.: Jarry, Ubu Roi.
W 24 Feb.: Goldberg, Performance Art. FIRST PAPER DUE

F 26 Feb.: Marinetti, Selected Writings.
M 1 Mar.: Marcus, Lipstick Traces.
W 3 Mar. / F 5 Mar.: Motherwell, Dada Painters & Poets
M 8 Mar.: Breton, Manifestoes of Surrealism.
W 10 Mar. / F 12 Mar.: Breton, Nadja.
M 15 Mar.-F 19 Mar.: Spring Break
M 22 Mar.: Breton, Nadja.
W 24 Mar.: Russell, Poets, Prophets, and Revolutionaries.
F 26 Mar. / M 29 Mar.: Brecht, Brecht on Theatre.
W 31 Mar.: Brecht, Threepenny Opera.
F 2 Apr.: Benjamin, Understanding Brecht.
M 5 Apr.: FILMS: Battleship Potemkin; Threepenny Opera. SECOND PAPER DUE
W 7 Apr.: Benjamin, Illuminations.
F 9 Apr. / M 12 Apr. / W 14 April: Marcus, Lipstick Traces.
F 16 Apr. / M 19 Apr.: Knabb, Situationist…Anthology.
W 21 Apr.: Debord, Society of the Spectacle.
F 23 Apr.: Marcus, Lipstick Traces.
M 26 Apr. / W 28 Apr.: FILM: Society of the Spectacle.
F 30 Apr.-F 7 May.: Wrap up course presentations.
Saturday, 15 May: THIRD PAPER DUE BY 5:00 P.M.