Beth Flynn
HU3555, Twentieth-Century British Literature
Walker 116
T,Th 9:35-10:50
Spring, 2002
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Office Hours: T,Th 12:3-2:00 and by appointment

Texts:

Supplies:
You'll need a file folder to hold your portfolio of journal entries, drafts, critique sheets, and graded papers. I'll bring in some used ones if you'd prefer not to buy a new one. I will be collecting in-class journal entries at the end of each class period. I will collect drafts and critique sheets on the day formal essays are due and graded essays shortly after they are returned. Please have the file folder by Thursday of week one.

Purpose:
The course is described in the catalog as follows:
Study of British, British colonial, and independence literature of the twentieth century. Will explore relationships between literature and other areas such as the arts, architecture, history, and philosophy in discussions of such movements as modernism and postmodernism.

Writing Assignments:
Journal:
For each class session in which there are assigned readings, you will be asked to write one or more in-class journal entries. The entries will provide you an opportunity to reflect on the material you have read and to record your reactions in a focused way. These entries are not formal and need not be polished or well organized. The act of writing should stimulate you to make connections you might not previously have made.

E-Mail Message:
Once during the term you should put an observation about course readings, class discussion, or presentations on e-mail. The observation can also be something you read or observed that is pertinent to the course. The list will be set up so that it can go to the entire list if you send it to eflynn3555-le@mtu.edu or to me if you send it to eflynn@mtu.edu. Please note that "I" is the twelfth letter of the alphabet rather than the number one. The message should be at least a screen long.

Portfolio Analysis
Please prepare a portfolio analysis (at least a page long) that provides a commentary on journal entries, drafts and critique sheets, and final papers. What are some strengths of your performance on these assignments? What are some limitations?

Formal Writing:
Three formal papers will be required.
The first is a four-page essay (approximately 1,000 words) in which you respond to one of the works we have studied, will study, or that is included in the Norton anthology, by relating it to your personal experience. You might focus on the plot of the work or on a character or characters. How are they similar to or different from something that happened to you or someone or some people you know? You might also compare the setting to a place you are familiar with. Be sure to make specific references to the work you are focusing on, providing direct or indirect quotes and page or stanza references.

For the second essay you have two options. The first is a four-page (approximately 1,000 words) analysis of a book-length biography or autobiography of an author whose work we have read, will read, or that is included in the Norton anthology. Provide the title and author of the book you are analyzing in a works cited that makes use of MLA format and in the text of your essay. Then describe the author's life as portrayed by the author of the book you are analyzing. What perspective or bias does the author of the biography or autobiography bring to the depiction of the author of the work or works? In what ways does information about the author's life provide insight into the work or works we have read by him or her? The second option is a four-page (approximately 1,000 words) comparison of a twentieth-century British work and a film based on it. How does the film depart from the literary work? In what ways is it similar? You might want to consider style, characterization, themes, or the effects of the different media on all of these. Which do you prefer and why? Twentieth-century British authors whose works have been made into films include Virginia Woolf, Joseph Conrad, J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien, Arthur Conan Doyle, Anthony Burgess, James Joyce, D.H. Lawrence, and George Orwell.

The third is a four-page (approximately 1,000 words) essay in which you contribute to class discussion of Achebe's Things Fall Apart, making use of at least two essays in Approaches to Teaching Achebe's Things Fall Apart. Try to provide a fresh interpretation of the novel that moves beyond positions arrived at in class or perhaps even beyond the critical essays in the approaches book. Make specific references to the essays in the Approaches book and include page references.

For each formal essay, you will need to have a proposal two weeks before the essay is due and a draft one week before the essay is due. Both will be critiqued by a classmate.

Presentations:
You will have an opportunity to present essays # 1, 2, and 3 in five-minute presentations. The presentation should be based on the paper you have submitted but should be tailored for oral delivery. Please use at least one overhead that provides an outline of your paper and a thesis statement. Please include a paper copy of the outline and thesis statement with your paper.

Attendance:
Attendance is mandatory. Much of the course involves conversation about course readings. If you miss those conversations, you will have missed a good deal of the course content. More than four unexcused absences will affect your grade.

Late Papers:
Since the course emphasizes the revision process and since it is important that presentations be based on finished essays, drafts and final essays must be submitted on time. Late papers will affect your grade.

Grades:
Your grade will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal, e-mail, critiques, and portfolio</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation # 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation # 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Please use Modern Language Association (MLA) format in your essays where appropriate. A useful Website that describes MLA format is http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html.

Remember that formal essays should have titles. Please leave at least an inch margin on the sides and top and bottom of the paper and remember to number the pages on papers. Label all work. Include your name, my name, the course number and time, the date, and the course assignment. Be sure to indicate if the paper is a draft, a formal paper, or a revision.

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

It may be necessary to alter the syllabus as the quarter proceeds in order to better meet the instructional needs of the class.

Plagiarism—using the ideas or words of others without acknowledging the source—is unethical and a violation of University policy. Plagiarism cases will be handled by Steve Tyrell, Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Some consequences of plagiarism could be failure of a paper or course. The University has subscribed to an anti-plagiarism service that can detect plagiarized material. If you have questions about the proper way to cite the ideas of someone else, please see me.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (January 15-17)

T  Introduction

Week 2 (January 22-24)


Week 3 (January 29-31)

Th Apocalypse Now (film).

Week 4 (February 5-7)


Week 5 (February 12-14)

T Essay #1 due; presentations.
Th Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring, pp. 19-158.
Presentation # 3  5%
Formal essay # 1  20%
Formal essay # 2  20%
Formal essay # 3  20%

Criteria for Evaluation:

A Papers and Presentations:
The author makes an original contribution so that the reader becomes involved and learns from
the piece or presentation.
The central point of the essay is clear, and the parts of the essay have been connected
effectively. The outline for the presentation is correct in form and effective.
Support for the point is appropriate for the intended audience and convincing.
The reader's or listener's needs have been taken into consideration.
There are few if any errors.

B Papers and Presentations:
The writing or speaking is clear, but the contribution does not seem especially original or new.
The central point is clear, but the parts of the essay or talk could be connected more effectively.
Support for the point is adequate for the intended audience and fairly convincing.
The reader's or listener's needs have been taken into consideration to an extent.
There are some errors.

C Papers and Presentations:
Takes some effort on the part of the reader or listener to get through the essay or talk.
The paper or talk does not have a strong focus, and it is not always clear how the parts support
the thesis.
Support for the point is not especially appropriate for the intended audience and not especially
convincing.
The reader's or listener's needs have not always been taken into consideration.
There are a number of errors.

D Papers and Presentations:
The reader or listener cannot figure out what point the writer or speaker is trying to make.
The central point is not at all clear, and the parts do not support it.
Support for the point is inappropriate for the intended audience and not convincing.
The reader's or listener's needs have not been taken into consideration.
There are many errors.

F Papers and Presentations:
The paper or talk does not respond to the assignment at all or has not been handed in or
presented.

Other:
When papers are returned, most papers will have a letter grade on them. If you receive a grade
lower than A, you may revise the essay and submit it no later than two weeks after it is returned.
A few papers, though, will have an "R" on them. This means that the paper must be revised within
two weeks of the time the paper was returned, and only the revision will be graded. I will usually
suggest that individuals who receive Rs see me before revising. Please include the original paper
with the revision!
Week 6 (February 19-21)
T Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring, pp. 159-325.
Th Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring, pp. 326-479.

Week 7 (February 26-28)

Week 8 (March 12-14)

Week 9 (March 19-21)

Week 10 (March 26-28)
T Essay #2 due. Presentations.

Week 11 (April 2-4)

Week 12 (April 9-11)

Week 13 (April 16-18)

Week 14 (April 23-25)

Week 15 (April 30-May 2)