The literature of any nation or race is a graphic reflection of the values, concerns, perceptions and culture of the civilization which produced it. When the civilization is that which shaped and determined the course of the western world in general and our own nation in particular, the lessons to be learned and insights to be gained increase greatly. This course examines the literature of the recent of British history. Since the culture of the British Isles is so closely related to the literature which survives, we will attempt to investigate the history, politics, economics and and popular movements as part of our discussions and considerations.


Thomas Hardy, TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES, Dover Publications.

Aldous Huxley, BRAVE NEW WORLD, HarperCollins Publishers.

The opening years of this period of English Lit are marked by enormous changes in the international, political, economic and domestic scenes which were reflected in the literature we will read. This was also a time of innovation and alteration in the kinds of works that were being written. The most significant change was in the birth and development of the novel which was new at the beginning of this era and dominant at the end. We will read two examples of this genre to understand its form and influence on the literary world.

This class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion with each student expected to contribute to the proceedings. At some time during the next fourteen weeks, every one of you will be asked to discuss and report on some aspect of the works under consideration. Sometimes, you will be given advance notice so that you can prepare while at others, the reports will be more extemporaneous, so it would be prudent to keep up with the assigned readings.

In addition to the oral reports, the work of the course will include:

- Three hour exams (one during the fifth week, one the tenth week and one during Finals Week. These will cover only the works recently discussed. (100 points)
- Numerous reading quizzes over the materials assigned for the day. (10 pts each)
- Two short papers (3-5 pages each) one in the first seven weeks on the background of the literature and one during the second seven weeks analyzing a selected work or works of the literature itself. (100 points each)

Readings will be assigned on a day-to-day basis: you responsible for ALL required works.