

**ENG 323**  
**THE ENGLISH NOVEL: CONRAD TO THE PRESENT**  
**TH 10:00-11:20 in Volcanology 307**  
**CRN 16406**

**Instructor: Dr. Rachel Bash**

**Email: [bash2@uoregon.edu](mailto:bash2@uoregon.edu)**

**Phone: 326-3924**

**Fall 2014 office hours: MW 1:00-3:00 in PLC 213 & by appointment**

**THE CLASS:** With a focus on form, this class will explore the “English” novel from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. In the process, we will consider the “I” of England during this period: which characters are granted the authority of the first-person narrative, how twentieth-century authors perceive that authority (e.g., the growing numbers of “unreliable” narrators), and how that authority speaks to issues of nation, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, language, and history. In the process, you will practice close, analytical reading, conduct your own secondary research, and present your ideas in class and on the page.

The Department’s assessment procedure for the Undergraduate English Major is built around six desired learning outcomes:

1. Read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions
2. Draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts
3. Perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts
4. Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose
5. Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments
6. Employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay’s thesis

**THE TEXTS** (available at the UO Bookstore):

\* Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

\* West, *The Return of the Soldier*

\* Isherwood, *Goodbye to Berlin*

\* Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

\* Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

Class choice between

\* Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*, or

\* Adiga, *The White Tiger*

\*Any additional texts will be found on Blackboard (BB)—print and bring to class on the assigned days.

Students must have access to Blackboard and a UO email account. All class communication will go through those two online resources.

**THE WORK:**

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Research Exercise (2 pages) and Presentation	15%
Close Reading Paper (3-4 pages)	15%
Final Paper (5-7 pages)	25%
Participation/Reading/Quizzes	5%

**Midterm and Final Exams** (20% each, 40% total): Exams will test reading comprehension, terminology, and your ability to think critically about course materials. There will be little in-class exam prep, as exams are rewards for being present and doing the work. You will, however, receive information beforehand about the amount and type of questions you will face. There are no make-ups for exams: please note the final exam

date on the syllabus to be sure you'll be here for it. Please also bring a green book to both exams. The final exam will be cumulative.

**Research Exercise and Presentation** (10% annotation, 5% presentation, 15% total): At this stage in your academic career, your work should consciously engage with a larger critical conversation. To facilitate this, you will sign up in groups of three and conduct a brief research exercise related to one of our novels. You will then post your findings to Blackboard and present on them during class. The resulting bibliography of sources could help you and your peers with the final paper. See Blackboard for more details.

**Close Reading Paper** (15%): You will select a passage from either *Heart of Darkness* or *The Return of the Soldier* and, in 3-4 pages, analyze its formal and narrative properties in order to support a thesis. More details to come.

**Final Paper** (25%): Your final formal assignment for the term will offer several prompts. All will ask you to advance and support a thesis related to one of our novels. You will also be asked to incorporate outside research. More details to come.

**Participation/Reading/Quizzes** (5%): Everything we do in class should be approached with your best work ethic. Not having done the readings as well as not having the readings assigned for that day with you in class will seriously drop your participation grade. Classroom disrespect and disruption will severely lower your participation grade (see below: "Second Big Plea"). "Participation" may occasionally include small in-class assignments or posts to Blackboard forums. In order to earn full credit for participation, you must schedule an appointment with me at least once during the term. (Scheduling an appointment does not guarantee full credit. It just makes it possible.)

Finally, the reading schedule in this course sets a fast pace. Some texts are quite dense. It will be your responsibility to keep up. I will give quizzes if I begin to suspect otherwise.

## THE POLICIES:

**Attendance:** Attendance is required and will affect your final grade: **every absence beyond two will lower your final grade one "step" (e.g. B- to C+).** It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet for every class. In-class quizzes and presentations cannot be made up. Lateness is disrespectful to your peers and your instructor; if you are late two times, it counts as one absence.

**Exams and Papers:** In order to pass the course, students must take both exams and hand in both papers.

**Office hours and Email:** Make use of office hours! Make an appointment if your schedule doesn't allow you to use them! Also, I check email Sunday evening through Friday morning. Plan accordingly.

**Paper Format:** Papers must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. Your name, date, and course number should be typed on the first page in the upper left hand corner. After page one, type last name and page number at upper right-hand corner of every page. All papers must be titled. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar do count. **All papers will be handed in and graded electronically; this means that instead of handing in a paper copy, you will e-mail your paper to me as a Word attachment. I will e-mail you back with comments and a grade. See me in week one if you will not have regular access to a computer with internet capabilities.**

**Late Papers:** No late journals will be accepted. Presentations and quizzes cannot be made up. Papers will be docked one "step" (e.g. B- to C+) if handed in after the deadline, and an additional step for each full day late thereafter. After two class periods, I will not accept late papers for a grade; they count as missed assignments (F). **Remember: in order to pass the course, students must turn in both papers.**

**Access:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

**Plagiarism:** Unacknowledged borrowing of others' words or ideas constitutes plagiarism, a serious academic crime that results in disciplinary action up to expulsion. So don't do it. If you use someone else's words or ideas, just quote them and provide the relevant source info in footnotes. If you have any doubts or questions about plagiarism or the University's policy on it, come talk to me or refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In this class, plagiarism carries a penalty course failure *and* the possibility of disciplinary action from the English department. So again, don't do it.

**Big Plea:** Ask questions! There are no stupid questions in this classroom. There are misguided claims, which often stem from not having asked questions, be they of the self, of an instructor, of a text, or of peers. Asking questions is vital, as it is only through a concerted dedication to the exploring of our questions and the working through of our problems that we will get any sort of where as a class and as human beings.

**Second Big Plea:** Be here when you're here. All computer/technological activity must be class-related. Any personal communication or outside work on electronic devices is not permitted during class time. If you require the use of such a device in order to participate in class, please talk to me in week one. Otherwise, using these technologies for things other than class-specific work will earn a warning the first instance, and an absence every instance thereafter. I may not announce in class if you have earned such an absence.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative: readings and assignments may change as needed.

DATE	READING DUE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
<b>Week 1</b>		
T 9/30	Syllabus (in class)	
H 10/2	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> I	Email your vote to me by 5pm
<b>Week 2</b>		
T 10/7	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> II	
H 10/9	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> III and Achebe (pdf on BB—read and bring to class)	<i>HoD</i> Research Presentations
<b>Week 3</b>		
T 10/14	<i>The Return of the Soldier</i> 1-4	
H 10/16	<i>The Return of the Soldier</i> 5-6	<i>TRoS</i> Research Presentations
F 10/17		<b>Close Reading Due to my email by 5pm</b>
<b>Week 4</b>		
T 10/21	<i>Goodbye to Berlin</i> , “Sally Bowles”	
H 10/23	<i>Goodbye to Berlin</i> , “A Berlin Diary (Winter 1932-3)”	<i>GtB</i> Research Presentations
<b>Week 5</b>		
T 10/28	<b>Midterm Exam held in our classroom</b>	
H 10/30	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> Part One	
<b>Week 6</b>		
T 11/4	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> p. 65 - 121	<i>WSS</i> Research Presentation
H 11/6	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> p. 121 - end	<i>WSS</i> Research Presentation
<b>Week 7</b>		
T 11/11	<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> , Genesis - Leviticus	
H 11/13	<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> , Numbers - Joshua	
<b>Week 8</b>		
S 11/16	<i>Last day to drop a class with a “W”</i>	
T 11/18	<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> , Judges - Ruth	<i>OANtOF</i> Research Presentations
H 11/20	TBA	
<b>Week 9</b>		
T 11/25	TBA	<i>TBA</i> Research Presentations
H 11/27	<b>No Class—have a safe and happy holiday!</b>	
<b>Week 10</b>		
T 12/2	TBA	<i>TBA</i> Research Presentations
H 12/4	TBA and wrap-up	
F 12/5		<b>Final Paper due to my email by 5pm</b>
<b>Finals Week</b>		
T 12/9	<b>Final Exam held from 8-9:50am (apologies to night owls) in our classroom</b>	