

ENGLISH 394—TWENTIETH CENTURY LITERATURE (FALL 2014)
9-9:50 a.m. (260 CON)

Instructor: Mary Wood
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Office: 445 PLC, 6-3010
W 1-3 pm and F 10-11 am

Course Goals: 1) To acquaint students with modernist literary movements on both sides of the Atlantic; 2) to foster students' appreciation and interpretation of a range of multicultural literary works (written between 1890 and 1945) in their social, historical, and political contexts; 3) To develop students' abilities to write strong, coherent analytical essays informed by an understanding of literary techniques and strategies.

Texts: Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty*
George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*
Robert Hass, ed., *Modernist Women Poets*
D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded*
Claude McKay, *Selected Poems*

Shorter works listed in reading schedule available on Blackboard
Books above available at the University of Oregon Bookstore.

Requirements:

Class attendance is mandatory. Everyone is allowed two unexcused absences. Unexcused absences after that may affect your grade. Please come to class having read and thought about the work listed for that day. Participation will help if you end up with a borderline grade.

All written work must be your own.

Writing requirements and other projects are as follows:

- 1) **Reading Responses:** A brief 250-word reading response will be due every Monday (starting in Week Two) on any aspect of the readings for the week beginning that same Monday. These are meant to encourage you to keep up with the reading and to come to class with some ideas to share. Each response should show that you've read the piece you've chosen to discuss and should be proofread and well-written. You may skip one week, for a total of 8 responses (20%).
- 2) **1-page** discussion of a scene from the film *I'm a Fool*, analyzing its difference from Anderson's original story (10%). Due Monday, Oct. 20th.
- 2) **3-4-page essay** on an aspect of the reading, due in the sixth week (Wednesday, Nov. 5th) (20%).
- 3) another **3-4-page essay** on the reading, due during finals week. (25%)
- 4) **A group project** that teaches fellow students about a literary anthology, magazine or journal in its socio-historical contexts and relates that publication to

class topics. Projects will begin in the fourth week, on Friday, and will continue on Fridays through the last week of the term. The project will be accompanied by a **2-3-page essay** (per student) that interprets the project and its relationship to class reading. We will discuss the project more at length in class. (25% presentation and essay). The essay is due a week after the presentation.

“I’m a Good Girl I Am”: Modernity Meets Class and Gender

Mon., Sept. 29th—Introductions.

Wed., Oct. 1st—Begin George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion* (1912). Acts 1 and 2.

Friday, Oct. 3rd—Shaw continued.

Mon., Oct. 6th—Finish *Pygmalion*.

Wed., Oct. 8th—Excerpts from film *My Fair Lady* (1964).

Friday, Oct. 10th—Discuss book and film.

“How Readily Our Thoughts Swarm Upon a New Object”: Writing the Perceiving Mind

Mon., Oct. 13th—Virginia Woolf, “The Mark on the Wall” (1921), on Blackboard.

Wed., Oct. 15th--Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin) Excerpt from *Stories of an Indian Childhood* (1900-1902), on Blackboard.

Friday, Oct. 17th—Sherwood Anderson, “I’m a Fool” (1922), on Blackboard. GE television theater version (with James Dean, 1954) shown in class.

Creating Modernism: Salons, Bookstores, and Little Magazines

Mon., Oct. 20th—Sherwood Anderson, “The Strength of God” (1919), Blackboard.

1-page film assignment due.

Wed., Oct. 22nd-- Poems by Gertrude Stein, Angelina Weld Grimke, and Djuna Barnes from Hess, *Modernist Women Poets*.

Friday, Oct. 24th—Modernist poets continued. **Presentations begin.**

Literature of Immigration

Mon., Oct. 27th—Abraham Cahan, “Circumstances,” on Blackboard.

Wed., Oct. 29th--Sui Sin Far, “The Wisdom of the New,” on Blackboard.

Friday Oct. 31st—Poems by Claude McKay (TBA). **Presentations.**

“What Happens to a Dream Deferred”? Poetry, Translation, Liberation Struggles

Mon., Nov. 3rd—More poems by Claude McKay (1920s). Selections to be announced.

Wed., Nov. 5th—McKay continued. Hughes translations of poems by Nicolas Guillen (*Cuba Libre*) and Federico Garcia Lorca (*Gypsy Ballads*), poems by Césaire (1930s, 1940s), on Blackboard.

3-4-page essay due.

Friday, Nov. 7th—**Presentations.**

Writing Work and Unions

Mon., Nov. 10th —Odets, *Waiting for Lefty* (1935)

Wed., Nov. 12th—Odets play continued.

Friday, Nov. 14th—Begin D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (1936). **Presentations.**

“A Story Like That, He Realized, Was Full of Meaning”: Narrative, Power, Identity

Mon., Nov. 17th—D'Arcy McNickle, continued.

Wed., Nov. 19th—McNickle, continued.

Friday, Nov. 21st—McNickle, continued. **Presentations.**

Love and War

Mon., Nov. 24th—Carson McCullers, begin *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (1941).

Wed., Nov. 26th—McCullers, continued.

Friday, Nov. 28th—No class. Thanksgiving. Finish reading McCullers!

Mon., Dec. 1st—McCullers continued. Begin film of *Reflections* by John Huston (1967).

Wed., Dec. 3rd—Continue film by John Huston.

Friday, Dec. 5th—Discuss novel and film of *Reflections in a Golden Eye*.

No final exam. *Final Essay due Friday, Dec. 5th, by 6 p.m., under my office door, 445 PLC*