

ENGLAND, ENGLAND



English 104: Introduction to Fiction

Professor: Matthew Hannah
Office: 212 PLC
Office Hours: MW 12-2
Email:
mhannah@uoregon.edu
Phone: 541-346-0052
CRN: 22142
Location: 252 Straub Hall

Taking the title of Julian Barnes' postmodern novel as the title for this course, we will spend our term together reading and analyzing British novels of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Alongside these novels, we will learn the major concepts associated with fiction. By the end of this course, you will be knowledgeable about the major literary movements of the British novel and how it relies on particular effects such as point of view, plot, story, narration, action, and others.



"Expansion. That is the idea the novelist must cling to. Not completion. Not rounding off, but opening out."

-E.M. Forster
Aspects of the Novel



Required Texts

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (HoD), Norton (1900)

Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts* (BA), Harcourt (1941)

Julian Barnes, *England, England* (EE), Knopf (1996)

Zadie Smith, *White Teeth* (WT), Vintage (2001)

Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide* (HT), Houghton (2005)

Assignments:

Keyword Essay: 15%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Close Reading Essay:
20%
Reading Quizzes: 10%
Blog: 15%
Final Exam: 20%



Expectations:

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We are all adults. Please don't make me treat you like a child.

Please come to class having read the material and having prepared to discuss.

I grade fairly but firmly. If you want good marks, meet with me in advance of your projects.

I am happy to meet outside office hours if needed. I enjoy working with students so feel free to ask for help.

I have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism (including self-plagiarism). If you are uncertain as to what this constitutes, come speak with me.

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.

Reading Schedule

Week 1

Monday: Introductions, Syllabus

Wednesday: HoD 3-31

Friday: HoD 31-54

Week 2

Monday: HoD 54-77

Wednesday: BA 3-65

Friday: BA 65-96

Week 3

Monday: BA 96-125, NO CLASS, Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday: BA 125-173

Friday: BA 173-219

Week 4

Monday: EE 3-58

Wednesday: EE 58-107

Friday: EE 108-157, Keyword Essay DUE

Week 5

Monday: EE 157-212

Wednesday: EE 212-275

Friday: Midterm Exam

Week 6

Monday: WT 3-69

Wednesday: WT 69-133

Friday: WT 135-201

Week 7

Monday: WT 203-256

Wednesday: WT 257-314

Friday: WT 315-385

Week 8

Monday: WT 385-405

Wednesday: WT 407-448

Friday: HT 3-69

Week 9

Monday: HT 69-113

Wednesday: HT 113-177

Friday: HT 177-231

Week 10

Monday: HT 232-273

Wednesday: HT 273-329

Friday: Wrapping up and Review for Final Exam

Week 11

Monday: NO CLASS, Close-reading Essay DUE

Wednesday: FINAL EXAM, 10:15 a.m., location TBD