

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
City University of New York

Department of English

World Literature 1600-Present

The class meets on line

Eng 392-981

Spring 2008 3hrs 3 crs

PAGE DELANO

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My office hours: Thur. 2-4 or by appointment.

My mailbox is in 720

Course Description: This is a course in which we'll read through a semester's worth of significant texts of the modern era, that is, from the 17th century to the present period. It is a reading and writing class, so you can expect a good deal of both. We cannot possibly cover all the most important texts of this period. These five centuries usher in the rise of literacy, reading publics, the printing press, and tremendous changes in political processes, scientific knowledge, social relations, as well as in the recording of information. Thus, from a vast array of "great works," I have picked what I find to be important texts. And because we are learning on-line, we can also take extra advantage of electronic links that connect to or illuminate these texts.

Student learning outcome:

Students will develop a greater confidence in themselves as writers and readers, continue to hone their writing and other critical skills necessary in college and work life, and be far better prepared to use writing as a solid form of argument, description, analysis and imaginative communication. Furthermore, our projects, which we will use in developing discussions, short writing assignments, and longer essays or classroom presentations, will help develop students' abilities to integrate readings and discussions into their writing, and to strengthen text-based writing. A further outcome of this class is to develop students' abilities to take charge of their own education, to be familiar with the college community and its varied offerings.

Furthermore, students can expect to

- to understand a few important texts in the realm of world literature **well**.
- to get a solid sense of modern literature – its historical scope, its cultural influences.
- to develop your reading skills and abilities to write about literature.
- to become more familiar with the range of electronic resources linked to world literature—whether full texts, critical writing, or supplemental materials that expand context and historical connections.
- to come out of this class with independence and curiosity about reading more about literature from many parts of the world.

Readings:

These books are to be bought; they are available at Manhattan Books on Chambers St., and at the college's Barnes and Noble. However you purchase them, make sure you get **these specific editions!** There is a package with the *Writing about Literature* book, which should help keep the prices down. I have decided to use one "textbook" this semester, to give you tips about how to write about literature—it should help your close reading as well. One more note: although a number of these texts are available on line, I have assigned these specific editions because of their apparatus/notes etc. We will use *Writing about Literature* as a supplemental text, to help in the reading, note-taking, and varied writing assignments.

Writing About Literature Brief Eleventh Ed. Edgar V. Roberts; Pearson -- ISBN 0-13-154056-4

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* Pelican Shakespeare/ Penguin

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, Penguin

Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man & Other Poems* DOVER 0486280535

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, Penguin Classics edition (make sure you don't get abridged version)

Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* Penguin

Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis* Bantam Classics ed. 0-553-21369-5

Rabindranath Tagore, *Gitanjali* DOVER 0486414175

Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*

Buchi Emecheta, *Joys of Motherhood* Braziller 0807609501

Prerequisites: *Eng 101 and Eng 201 or Eng 121, and a Blackboard training workshop or previous DL course*

Other Resources: electronic texts, electronic links, audio-visual links

Use of Technology: The class is based on Blackboard communication, so students are expected to be familiar with this electronic media and others as well -- from downloading texts to accessing pdf files.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. **For this class, you are permitted 1 1/3 absences.** In the case of excessive

absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade. A lateness constitutes 1/3 an absence. Please be on time, or notify me if there are work-related issues. Remember, you are registered for a class that begins at 5:30 -- this means your working schedule should not interfere with class attendance.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web side, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

electronic resources:

To find out about Blackboard: <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/distance/getting-started/blackboard.html>

When there are problems using the CUNY portal, try using the side entrance <https://blackboard-doorway.cuny.edu/>. **Email:** Please make sure that you have your BMCC email account transferred to your regular email. You are responsible for email I send to your BMCC account!! I will communicate with you – and you will communicate with classmates, on email on a regular basis.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

THERE WILL BE WEEKLY Discussion Board (DB) contributions. Each contribution is worth 2 points if it is full and well written. (200 words or so). If it is minimal, I will give you 1 point. This constitutes weekly attendance as well. You are expected to “attend” each week.

There will be 3 READING (close reading) papers, each worth 9 pts. These are not essays, but thoughtful –quick, deep-- responses to a specific aspect of the reading/text.

There will be 2 essays, one mid-semester, and one at the end of the semester. The second essay may be a “project” – TBA. Each is worth 25 points. Total 103 points.

SEE “**HOW THIS COURSE WILL WORK**” FOR MORE DETAILS

course outline:

week	Sun-Sat week/dates	extra BMCC issues/dates	Mod /topics	assignments	<i>Writing and Literature</i>
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1	Jan 27-Feb 2	We meet face to face on 1/30	Mod 1 introductions, brief readings about "The Modern"	1) self description 2) post an image of what you think represents <i>the modern</i> , and explain why	Ch 1, Process of Reading, etc.
2	Feb 3-9		Mod 2 HAMLET	DB	
3	Feb 10-16	college closed 2/12	HAMLET	DB	
4	Feb 17-23	college closed 2/18	HAMLET	DB & close reading paper 9 pts.	See "close reading," p. 55+
5	Feb 24-Mar 1		MOD 3 WORLD TRAVEL food and discovery (sugar, potatoes); travel narratives, OR Spain and Islam or other global connection in 17 th -18 th century	DB	See p. 160 for citing references You can have 29 pts so far
6	Mar 2-8		MOD 4 RAPE OF THE LOCK, GULLIVER'S TRAVELS	DB essay first draft due	See Ch 7-10
7	Mar 9-15		Mod 4 continued	DB	
8	Mar 16-22 (March 21-24 no classes)	Mod 5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	DB – essay on....25 pts due Mar 20	
9	Mar 23-29	March 26 is a Monday schedule	Mod 5 continued PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	DB	
10/11	March 30 Apr 5	Apr 3 is last day for W	Mod 5 contd. England, sugar, trade, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	DB Reading paper on P & P	
12	Apr 6-12		Mod 6 Romanticism and Rev Wordsworth, Baudelaire, Egyptian poet, Dickinson, Chinese (texts to be provided)	DB	See Wordsworth and Donne p. 162
13	Apr 13-19	Spring recess Apr 19-27	Mod 6 THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO	DB	See ch. 9 and appendix B
14	Apr 27-May 3		Mod 7 Modernity/ the Novel: Kafka, <i>THIS WAS FOR THE GAS</i>	DB reading paper	
15	May 4-10		Mod 7 THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD	DB final essay draft 1 due	
16	May 12-14	May 14 last day of classes	Mod 7 THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD essays on African women TBA	DB on line conferences	
		May 18-24 final exams		final essay due	