

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 4583 3.0A (F)

Virginia Woolf

Course Director:

Elicia Clements
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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Thursdays 4:00-7:00pm

Description:

In an essay written in 1924 called "Character in Fiction" Virginia Woolf argues that "on or about 1910 human character changed." Her assertion marks significant epistemological shifts that occur in the early twentieth century. Such changes in ways of knowing manifest, in particular, in the modernist novel—transformations Woolf not only observes as a working essayist, but also creates as one of the leading figures in the general impetus to "make it new," to use Ezra Pound's phrase. Woolf's novels fundamentally question how meaning is made, query what constitutes individual and social identities, implicate language in such problematics, and upend previous notions of literary form. In so doing, her work unsettles nineteenth-century assumptions about the place of art in the fabric of society. This course will explore how these issues inform six of her major novels. Additionally, we investigate the effect of technological innovations on her work, the relationship between fiction and other art forms, as well as how class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality inflect her fiction. We also read a variety of shorter, then-contemporary works (her own and others) to contextualize Woolf's literary moment and the modernist period more generally.

Category:

C

Area:

4.3

Period:

3

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Short Essay (1000-1500 words) - 15%
Research Essay (2000-2500 words) - 35%
One Seminar Presentation -20%
Final Exam -20%
Class Participation - 10%

Reading List:

Please attempt to purchase or borrow the Oxford World's Classics Editions of the novels.

The Voyage Out

Jacob's Room

Mrs. Dalloway

To the Lighthouse

The Waves

Between the Acts

Additional, shorter readings will be provided in a course kit.

Open To:

Yr 4 Honours