

LIT 522.03 - Virginia Woolf

Fall 2016
W 3:00 – 6:00
LA 233

Robert Baker (543-4135 / robert.baker@mso.umt.edu)
Office Hours: TR 12:30 – 1:45, 3:30 – 4:00,
or by appointment (LA 219)

Course Description

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) is a great English novelist of the first half of the twentieth century. She is a modernist, a writer who bends the conventions of the realist tradition in which she works, hoping to disclose dimensions of life that she feels cannot be disclosed through the usual techniques of the nineteenth-century novel. She is a feminist, a fine satirist, a penetrating psychologist, a secular mystic, and a clairvoyant lyricist of the hidden passageways that connect seemingly unconnected lives and events. Above all, like Marcel Proust, her great French contemporary, she is an elegiac writer, an artist of the depths of lost time.

In this course we will read six or seven of Woolf's novels, several of her short stories, several of her essays on modern fiction, two of her book-length feminist essays, and at least one of her autobiographical writings. Our primary concern will be to explore the way of seeing expressed in her work. At the same time we will address the relationship between her work and the social and cultural contexts in which it was written as well as the changing reception of her work over the last century.

Course Requirements

- Reading of all the assigned texts
- Regular attendance and engagement
- One short presentation in class
- One long paper

Texts

- *The Voyage Out* (1915) (optional)
- *Night and Day* (1919) (optional)
- *A Haunted House* (stories from 1917 on)
- *Jacob's Room* (1922)
- *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)
- *To the Lighthouse* (1927)
- *A Room of One's Own* (1929)
- *Orlando* (1928)
- *The Waves* (1931)
- *Moments of Being* ("A Sketch of the Past" w. 1939-40)
- *The Years* (1937)
- *Three Guineas* (1938)
- *Between the Acts* (posthumously p. 1941)

Map of Course (there may be minor changes as we move along)

W Aug 31	Introduction
W Sept 7	Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" Apollinaire, "Zone" Christopher Butler, "The Dynamics of Change" from <i>Early Modernism</i> Woolf, "A Haunted House," "Monday or Tuesday," "Kew Gardens," "The Mark on the Wall," "Moments of Being," "Together and Apart," "A Summing Up" Woolf, "Modern Fiction"
W Sept 14	<i>Jacob's Room</i> Woolf, "How It Strikes a Contemporary"
W Sept 21	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> Woolf, "Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown" Hermione Lee, "Mrs. Dalloway" Eileen Barrett, "Unmasking Lesbian Passion: The Inverted World of <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> "
W Sept 28	<i>To the Lighthouse</i> Woolf, "Professions for Women" Erich Auerbach, "The Brown Stocking"
W Oct 5	<i>A Room of One's Own</i> T. W. Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" Toril Moi, "Introduction" to <i>Sexual/Textual Politics</i>
W Oct 12	<i>Orlando</i> Jaime Hovey, "'Kissing a Negress in the Dark': Englishness as Masquerade in Woolf's <i>Orlando</i> " Christopher Reed, "Bloomsbury as Queer Subculture" Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, "Bloomsbury and Empire"

- W Oct 19 *The Waves*
 J. W. Graham, "Point of View in *The Waves*"
- W Oct 26 *The Waves*
 Woolf, "Phases of Fiction"
- W Nov 2 "A Sketch of the Past" in *Moments of Being*
- W Nov 9 *The Years*
 Carolyn Heilbrun, "Virginia Woolf in her Fifties"
- W Nov 16 *Three Guineas*
- W Nov 23 Thanksgiving Break
- W Nov 30 *Between the Acts*
 Nora Eisenberg, "Virginia Woolf's Last Words on Words: *Between the Acts* and 'Anon'"
- W Dec 7 Review
 Woolf, "How Should One Read a Book?"

***** Final Paper due on Monday 12 December by 10:00 a.m. *****