

LIT 391 (01): Virginia Woolf's Daughters: British & Irish Women Novelists From Woolf Onward

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 -10;
and by appointment
Class Schedule: LA 102: Tues, Thurs: 2-3:20

Autumn 2016

“For we think back through our mothers if we are women.”
—Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Texts:

- Woolf, Virginia, *A Room of One's Own & Three Guineas* (Penguin Modern Classics: ISBN: 9780141 184609)
- —, *Between the Acts* (Harvest Books: 9780156118705)
- Bowen, Elizabeth, *The Heat of the Day* (Anchor: ISBN: 9780316098328)
- Macaulay, Rose, *The Towers of Trebizond* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: ISBN: 9780374533632)
- Taylor, Elizabeth, *The Soul of Kindness* (Virago Modern Classics: ISBN: 9780374533632)
- Spark, Muriel, *A Far Cry From Kensington* (New Directions: ISBN: 9780811223027)
- Fitzgerald, Penelope, *The Beginning of Spring* (Mariner Books: 9780544484115)
- Donoghue, Emma, *Room* (Back Bay Books: ISBN: 9780316098328)
- Enright, Anne, *The Gathering* (Black Cat: ISBN: 9780802170392)
- Cusk, Rachel, *Outline: A Novel* (Picador: ISBN: 9781250081544)

Course Description:

The course is designed not only to focus upon British and Irish Women's fiction beginning with Virginia Woolf and moving toward the present but also to pursue the question—raised in Woolf's seminal essay *A Room of One's Own*—of whether the subsequent development of a female tradition of writing has had the definable consequences that Woolf herself implied that it would when decrying its absence in her own day and earlier: “since freedom and fullness of expression are of the essence of the art, such a lack of tradition, such a scarcity and inadequacy of tools, must have told enormously upon the writing of women.” We will, accordingly, begin with a discussion of three works by Virginia Woolf: two polemical works of non-fiction, *A Room of One's Own* and *Three Guineas*, and one novel (her last), *Between the Acts*, to be followed by a reading of a selective group of British and Irish female novelists, including Elizabeth Bowen (*The Heat of the Day*), Rose Macaulay (*The Towers of Trebizond*), Elizabeth Taylor (*The Soul of*

Kindness), Muriel Spark (*A Far Cry from Kensington*), Penelope Fitzgerald (*The Beginning of Spring*), Emma Donoghue (*Room*), Anne Enright (*The Gathering*) and Rachel Cusk (*Outline: A Novel*).

Tentative Schedule of Discussions:

Week I:

8/30: Introduction
9/1: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Week II:

9/6: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
9/8: Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*

Week III:

9/13: Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*
9/15: Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts*

Week IV:

9/20: Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts*
9/22: Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*

Week V:

9/27: Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*
9/29: Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*

Week VI:

10/4: Rose Macaulay, *The Towers of Trebizond*
10/6: Rose Macaulay, *The Towers of Trebizond*

Week VII:

10/11: Rose Macaulay, *The Towers of Trebizond*
10/13: **Midterm Exam** (blue-book required)

Week VIII:

10/18: Elizabeth Taylor, *The Soul of Kindness*
10/20: Elizabeth Taylor, *The Soul of Kindness*

Week IX:

10/25: Spark, Muriel, *A Far Cry From Kensington*

10/27: Spark, Muriel, *A Far Cry From Kensington*

Week X:

11/1: Penelope Fitzgerald, *The Beginning of Spring*

11/3: Penelope Fitzgerald, *The Beginning of Spring*

Week XI:

11/8: Election Day: No Class

11/10: Emma Donoghue, *Room*

Week XII:

11/15: Emma Donoghue, *Room*

11/17: Emma Donoghue, *Room*

Week XIII:

11/22: Anne Enright, *The Gathering*

11/24: Thanksgiving: No Class

Week XIV:

11/29: Anne Enright, *The Gathering*

12/1: Anne Enright, *The Gathering*

Week XV:

12/6 : Rachel Cusk, *Outline*

12/8 : Rachel Cusk, *Outline*

Final Examination:

12/15 (Thursday): 3:20-5:20 (blue-book required)

Requirements:

Participation in class discussions is expected and attendance is mandatory. You can anticipate quizzes upon the readings, including readings that may be named at a later date. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. Your grade, meanwhile, will be based upon the following: a midterm exam (25% each), a final examination (25%), a term paper (30%), and attendance and participation (quiz grades included) (20%). Regarding attendance, you are permitted *two absences without penalty*; each subsequent absence will result in a subtraction of four points from the twenty points allocated to the participation and attendance portion of your grade (e.g., 20% to 16% for the third absence, 16% to 12% for the fourth and so on). Late arrivals are frowned upon, and if you need, for some good reason, to leave class early, I would ask that you notify me ahead of time; otherwise, an early departure will count as an absence from class.

University Policy on Academic Honesty:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/age/1321>.

University Plagiarism Warning:

“Plagiarism is the representing of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. (See Student Code section of the University catalogue.)

“Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one’s own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one’s own original work is plagiarism.”