

Beth Flynn  
 HU3517, British and American Literary Studies  
 Walker108  
 T,Th 12:35-1:50 p.m.  
 Spring, 2005  
 Office: 303 Walker  
 Office phone: 487-3227  
 E-mail: [eflynn@mtu.edu](mailto:eflynn@mtu.edu)  
 Office Hours: T,Th 11-12:20 and by appointment

### **Texts:**

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Ed. Donald Gray.Norton, 2000. ISBN: 0-393-97604-1.  
 Fitzgerald,F. Scott. The Great Gatsby. New York: Scribner, 2004. ISBN: 0743273567.  
 Jeffares, A. Norman. Ireland's Love Poems.W.W. Norton & Co. ISBN: 0393043169.  
 Lynn,Steven. Texts and Contexts: Writing about Literature with Critical Theory.White Plains:Longman, 2004. ISBN: 0321209427.  
 Nafisi,Azar. Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books.New York:Random House, 2003. ISBN: 0375504907.

### **Supplies:**

You'll need a file folder to hold your portfolio ofresponses, drafts, critique sheets, and graded papers. I'll bring in some used ones if you'd prefernot to buy a new one. I will be collectingresponse statements on the days they are due. I will collect drafts andcritique sheets on the day formal essays are due and graded essays shortlyafter they are returned. Please have thefile folder by Thursday of week one.

### **Purpose:**

The course is described in the catalog as follows:

A consideration of a variety of critical approaches to literature and methods of literary research in the context of literary texts by British and American authors and possibly of film versions of the texts.

### **Writing Assignments:**

#### Response Journal:

For selected readings indicated on the syllabus, you shouldsubmit in-class or out-of-class response statements of at least 125 words. Thereshould demonstrate that you have read the assignment meaningfully andshould discuss the assignment in terms of course content and goals. Some possibilitieswould be to focus on important themes, or relationships between themes and theauthor of the selection, or important passages, words, sentences, images orphrases, or connections between theselection and other selections assigned that day or previous course readings orreadings done elsewhere. The responses will provide you an opportunity toreflect on the material you have read and to record your reactions in a focusedway. These responses are not formal andneed not be polished or well organized. The act of writing should stimulate you to make connections you mightnot previously have made. One of these in-class or out-of-class responseshould be sent to the entire class via e-mail at [flynn3517-l@mtu.edu](mailto:flynn3517-l@mtu.edu). To countas a response on a particular day, an e-mail message should be sent before theclass in which the response is due and printed out and submitted the day theresponse is due.

#### Portfolio Analysis

Please prepare a portfolio analysis (at least a page long)that provides a commentary on responses, drafts and critique sheets, and finalpapers. What are some strengths of your performance on these assignments? What are some limitations?

#### Formal Writing:

Three formal papers will be required.

The first is a four-page essay (approximately 1,000 words) in which you analyze The Great Gatsby or Pride and Prejudice from one or more of the critical approaches discussed in Chapters 3-8 of Lynn. Be sure to describe the approach or approaches in detail. In the conclusion of the essay, discuss the advantages or disadvantages of using this approach or these approaches to the novel.

Or

Describe the critical approach (or approaches) used in one of the critical essays in the Norton Critical Edition of Pride and Prejudice and then evaluate the critical essay. Is the argument convincing? Why or why not?

The second is a three-page essay (approximately 750 words) in which you characterize Nafisi's approach to literature in Reading Lolita in Tehran by discussing her treatment of Gatsby and/or Pride and Prejudice. Make connections between her approach and Lynn's discussion of critical approaches to literature.

The third is a four-page essay (approximately 1,000 words) in which you compare one or more of the poems from Ireland's Love Poems with some other work of literature or film not discussed in class. How is the theme of love similar or different? Which work do you prefer and why?

You will need to submit proposals for and drafts of these essays. The proposal is a brief, tentative description of what you intend to write about in the essay. One paragraph is sufficient, though it could be longer. You are free to change your topic after you have submitted the proposal. The draft should be your best effort rather than a first draft. The feedback you receive on it from a classmate will be more valuable if you think the essay is close to being ready to submit.

### ***Presentations:***

You will have an opportunity to present essays # 1, 2, and 3 in four-minute presentations. The presentation should be based on the paper you have submitted but should be tailored for oral delivery. Please use at least one overhead that provides an outline of your paper and a thesis statement. Please include a paper copy of the outline and thesis statement with your paper. Make sure to put a complete heading on the outline including your name, my name, the date, the course number, and the assignment number.

### ***Reports/Discussions:***

Once during the term make a five-minute report on background material that informs the reading assignment for that day or start the class discussion for that day's reading. If you prepare a report, be sure to submit an outline of it. If you start the discussion, submit the question or questions that you use to stimulate discussion.

### ***Attendance:***

Attendance is mandatory. Much of the course involves conversation about course readings. If you miss those conversations, you will have missed a good deal of the course content. More than three unexcused absences will affect your grade.

### ***Late Papers:***

Since the course emphasizes the revision process and since it is important that presentations be based on finished essays, drafts and final essays must be submitted on time. Late papers will affect your grade.

### ***Grades:***

Your grade will be based on the following:

Portfolio (responses, e-mail(s), critiques,outlines/questions)	25%
Presentation # 1	5%
Presentation # 2	5%
Presentation # 3	5%
Formal essay # 1	20 %
Formal essay # 2	20 %
Formal essay # 3	20%

**Criteria for Evaluation:**

**A Papers and Presentations:**

The author makes an original contribution so that the reader becomes involved and learns from the piece or presentation.

The central point of the essay is clear, and the parts of the essay have been connected effectively. The outline for the presentation is correct in form and effective.

Support for the point is appropriate for the intended audience and convincing.

The reader's or listener's needs have been taken into consideration.

There are few if any errors.

**B Papers and Presentations:**

The writing or speaking is clear, but the contribution does not seem especially original or new.

The central point is clear, but the parts of the essay or talk could be connected more effectively.

Support for the point is adequate for the intended audience and fairly convincing.

The reader's or listener's needs have been taken into consideration to an extent.

There are some errors.

**C Papers and Presentations:**

Takes some effort on the part of the reader or listener to get through the essay or talk.

The paper or talk does not have a strong focus, and it is not always clear how the parts support the thesis.

Support for the point is not especially appropriate for the intended audience and not especially convincing.

The reader's or listener's needs have not always been taken into consideration.

There are a number of errors.

**D Papers and Presentations:**

The reader or listener cannot figure out what point the writer or speaker is trying to make.

The central point is not at all clear, and the parts do not support it.

Support for the point is inappropriate for the intended audience and not convincing.

The reader's or listener's needs have not been taken into consideration.

There are many errors.

**F Papers and Presentations:**

The paper or talk does not respond to the assignment at all or has not been handed in or presented.

**Other:**

When papers are returned, most papers will have a letter grade on them. If you receive a grade lower than A, you may revise the essay and submit it no later than two weeks after it is returned. A few papers, though, will have an "R" on them. This means that the paper must be revised within two weeks of the time the paper was returned, and only the revision will be graded. I will usually suggest that individuals who receive Rs see me before revising. Please include the original paper with the revision!

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Remember that formal essays should have titles. Please leave at least an inch margin on the sides and top and bottom of the paper and remember to number the pages on papers. Label all work including presentation outlines. Include your name, my name, the course number and time, the date, and the course assignment. Be sure to indicate if the paper is a draft, a formal paper, or a revision. Please do NOT submit drafts and formal essays electronically.

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

It may be necessary to alter the syllabus as the semester proceeds in order to better meet the instructional needs of the class.

Plagiarism--using the ideas or words of others without acknowledging the source--is unethical and a violation of University policy. Plagiarism cases will be handled by the Dean of Students. Some consequences of plagiarism could be failure of a paper or course. The University has subscribed to an anti-plagiarism service that can detect plagiarized material. If you have questions about the proper way to cite the ideas of someone else, please see me.

### **Course Schedule:**

Week 1 (January 11-13)

T Introduction  
Th Gatsby, ch. 1-3. Lynn, ch. 2. In-class response # 1.

Week 2 (January 18-20)

T Gatsby, ch. 4-6. Out-of-class response # 2.  
Th Gatsby, ch. 7-9. In-class response # 3.

Week 3 (January 25-27)

T Pride and Prejudice, Vol. I, ch. 1-15, Lynn, ch. 3 (only pp. 37-46) and 4 (only pp. 61-67). Proposal for essay # 1 due.  
Th Pride and Prejudice, Vol. I, ch. 16-23, Vol. II, ch. 1-8. Lynn, ch. 5 (only pp. 97-106) and 6 (only pp. 133-148). In-class response # 4.

Week 4 (February 1-3)

T Pride and Prejudice, Vol. II, ch. 9-19, Vol. III, ch. 1-5. Lynn, ch. 7 (only pp. 183-189) and 8 (only pp. 211-218). Draft of essay # 1 due.  
Th Pride and Prejudice, Vol. III, ch. 6-19. In-class response # 5.

Week 5 (February 8)

T Film of Pride and Prejudice or Gatsby.

Week 6 (February 15-17)

T Essay # 1 due. Presentations.  
Th Presentations.

Week 7 (February 22-24)

T Reading Lolita, Part I, ch. 1-15 (pp. 3-55). Out-of-class response # 6.  
Th Reading Lolita, Part I, ch. 16-22 (pp. 55-77), Part II, ch. 1-7 (pp. 77-102). Proposal for essay # 2 due.

## Week 8 (March 1-3)

T Reading Lolita, Part II, ch. 8-26 (pp. 102-153). Out-of-class response # 7.  
Th Reading Lolita, Part IV, ch. 1-14 (pp. 257-307). Draft of essay # 2 due.

## Week 9 (March 15-17)

T Reading Lolita, Part III, ch. 15-26 (pp. 307-343). Epilogue (pp. 341-343). Out-of-class response # 8.  
Th Essay # 2 due. Presentations.

## Week 10 (March 22-24)

T Presentations.  
Th Love Poems, Introduction (pp. xvii-xxvii). Swift, p. 7, p. 30, p. 170. In-class response # 9.

## Week 11 (March 29-31)

T Synge, p. 177, p. 260, p. 305, p. 330, Wilde, p. 29, p. 229. Parnell, p. 312. Out-of-class response # 10.  
Th Joyce, p. 114. Gogarty, p. 25, p. 45, p. 286. In-class response # 11.

## Week 12 (April 5-7)

T Yeats, p. 134, p. 203, p. 209, p. 250. Proposal for essay # 3 due  
Th Gregory, p. 122, p. 131, p. 186, p. 307. In-class response # 12.

## Week 13 (April 12-14)

T O'Connor, p. 179, p. 252, p. 306. Draft of essay # 3 due.  
Th Beckett, p. 323. In-class response # 13.

## Week 14 (April 19-21)

T Essay # 3 due. Presentations.  
Th Conclusion. Portfolio analysis due. Portfolios due.

