

## NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY NOVEL

DR. SUSIE THOMAS

### **Set Texts**

Jane Austen, *Persuasion*

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

James Joyce, *Dubliners*

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

Roddy Doyle, *The Van*

Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

### **Grading Policy**

Essay I                    25%

Exam I                    25%

Essay II                   25%

Exam II                    25%

*The final grade will reflect class participation and attendance*

This course looks at the nineteenth and twentieth century novel in Britain and Ireland in terms of historical context and literary technique. It examines social conditions in the nineteenth century and the effect of serial publication on the novels of Charles Dickens; the relations between Britain and Ireland and questions of colonial and post-colonial literature in the work of James Joyce and Roddy Doyle; women writers and the literary canon through the novels of Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf; and contemporary multicultural Britain as it is represented by Hanif Kureishi.

The course explores literary movements and styles (Romanticism, realism, Modernism); narrative techniques and perspectives (1st & 3rd person, limited point-of-view, stream of consciousness); and the use of symbolism, imagery, and irony. As the course develops we shall consider the role of the author, the reader, and problems of interpretation. By paying close attention to both text and context I hope we shall achieve a lively appreciation of individual works and see them as part of the cultural life of Britain and Ireland.

Teaching is conducted mainly through seminar discussion and I hope everyone will participate fully. There will be short introductory lectures throughout the semester in order to provide the social, historical, literary and biographical background to each text.

Course Outline

- Class 1. The Rise of the Novel. Critical vocabulary and concepts
- Class 2 Persuasion, vol.1
- Class 3 Persuasion, vol.2
- Class 4 Visit Dickens House
- Class 5 Great Expectations, Part I
- Class 6 Great Expectations, Part II
- Class 7 Great Expectations, Part III
- Class 8 Bloomsbury Walk
- Class 9 EXAM DUE: ESSAY I

MID-TERM BREAK

- Class 10 To the Lighthouse
- Class 11 To the Lighthouse
- Class 12 Dubliners
- Class 13 Dubliners
- Class 14 See "The Snapper"
- Class 15 The Van
- Class 16 The Buddha of Suburbia
- Class 17 The Buddha of Suburbia
- Class 18 Revision
- Class 19 EXAM DUE ESSAY II