

English 381R: Reading Virginia Woolf
an INQ course

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Course Description: What is literature? What do we want to know about writers' lives and thoughts beyond their books? Is a biography fiction? Do we create fictional selves in our letters, even our diaries? Looking at an array of texts by and about Virginia Woolf, we will explore the definition of literature, the novel, the short story, biography. We will also study Woolf's sister's paintings, Sylvia Plath's comments on Woolf, and Quentin Bell's biography of his aunt, creating a multidisciplinary picture of Woolf's life and influence as a woman writer.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading and discussion: You will be asked to read between 100-150 pages a week; in addition, you will be asked to lead discussion with a prepared presentation once during the semester.
- 2) Weekly reading responses, 1-2 pages, due every Tuesday.
- 3) One 5 page essay
- 4) One formal research paper
- 5) Occasional classroom exercises, quizzes
- 6) final reflection paper
- 7) There will be one required out-of-class trip to Emory's MARBL collection in the Woodruff Library

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 20% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside

sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 94-97 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Weekly responses	20%
Essay	20%
Research Paper	25%
Class Participation	20%
Discussion presentation	10%
Reflective paper	5%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 32 of the Oxford College catalog.

Required Texts:

Woolf, Virginia. Between the Acts
---,---. A Haunted House and other stories
---, ---. Mrs. Dalloway
---,--- A Room of One's Own and Three Guineas
---,--- To The Lighthouse
---,---. A Writer's Diary
Rose, Phyllis. Virginia Woolf
Cunningham, Michael. The Hours

Weekly Outline of Reading:

Week One	Introduction and Objectives
Week 2	Reading Virginia Woolf: <u>A Room of One's Own</u>
Week 3	Reading 'Virginia Woolf': Letters, diary, biography
Week 4	<u>Mrs. Dalloway</u>
Week 5	Virginia Woolf reading: excerpts from <u>The Common Reader</u> <u>To The Lighthouse</u>
Week 6	<u>To The Lighthouse</u> Reading manuscripts, US/UK editions;
Spring Break	

Week 7	<u>A Haunted House and other stories</u>
Week 8	Letters, diaries and biography; Reading Woolf's handwriting: examples from the Berg collection
Week 9	Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell—the sisters' arts Woolf 'reading' Bell's paintings, Bell reading Woolf
Week 10	<u>Virginia Woolf</u> Quentin Bell's biography
Week 11	Reading <u>Virginia Woolf</u> : comparative biography Heilbrun, Rose, Bell et al.
Week 12	<u>Three Guineas</u> Essay due
Week 13	Plath reading Woolf: <u>A Writer's Diary</u> and Sylvia Plath's comments on it; Ted Hughes' comments on <u>Crime and Punishment</u>
Week 14	Reading Woolf: <u>The Hours</u> by Cunningham Research paper due
Week 15	<u>Between the Acts</u> Reflective paper due