

English 381R: Reading Virginia Woolf
an INQ course

Dr. Christine Loflin
Office: Humanities 103
Phone: 4-4682
cloflin@emory.edu

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: You will be asked to read between 100-150 pages a week
- 2) One formal research paper
- 3) 7 analyses of texts, assignments will differ as we go through the course
- 4) Occasional classroom exercises, quizzes

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.**

Grade breakdown:

Analyses	40%
Research Paper	30%
Class Participation	20%
Oral Presentation	10%

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

---, ---. Mrs. Dalloway

---,--- A Room of One's Own

---,--- To The Lighthouse

---,---. A Writer's Diary

---, --- Orlando

Weekly Outline of Reading:

Week One	Introduction and Objectives
Week 2	Virginia Woolf: <u>To The Lighthouse</u> (Analysis: one letter or diary entry)
Week 3	<u>To The Lighthouse</u> /Reading 'Virginia Woolf': Letters, diary, biography (Analysis: <u>Nation and Atheneum</u> piece)
Week 4	<u>A Room of One's Own</u> (Analysis: Virginia Woolf essay)
Week 5	Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury (Analysis: One Bloomsbury figure in three different sources)
Week 6	<u>Mrs. Dalloway</u> Research proposal
Spring Break	
Mar 18-22	<u>Mrs. Dalloway</u> (Analysis: stream of consciousness in fiction) Library research Mar 22

- Mar 25-29 **Library research 2 March 25** March 27-March 29: working with manuscript drafts (Analysis: a revision in “Time Passes” or .”A Room of One’s Own”) **March 29: Annotated bibliography due**
- April 1-5 Reading Virginia Woolf: comparative biography Heilbrun, Rose, Bell et al. **One draft page of the research paper due April 1** (Analysis: Compare descriptions of one event in two biographies)
- April 8-12 Orlando **April 12: peer review of drafts of research paper** April 10: Oral presentations 1
- April 15-19 Orlando **April 15 drafts of research paper turned in to me, with early draft & annotated bibliography.** April 19 Oral Presentations 2 (Analysis: on Orlando)
- April 22-26 **April 24: drafts returned** Plath reading Woolf: A Writer’s Diary and Sylvia Plath’s comments on it. April 24 Oral Presentations 3, April 26 Oral Presentations 4
- April 29 **Research paper due.**

Letters, diaries and biography; Reading Woolf’s handwriting: examples from the Berg collection