**CORE106 Fall 2015**

**September 14, 2015**

**Notes**

**Woolf *A Room of One's Own* Chapters 5 and 6, plus recap of 4**

“Unity of mind”. Analysis of sex interferes with it. (95) Why is unity of mind important and useful?   
  
Observation: look at the spot the size of a schilling in the back of the head. “Results are bound to be amazingly interesting.” (88)

Ability to eliminate self from the picture.   
  
The sequence…the expected order. “Did Tarantino create a better order?”

But nevertheless, she had certain advantages which women of far greater gift lacked even a half century ago. Men were no longer to her the ‘opposing faction.’

Something she said about Austen….her “gifts and her circumstances matched each other completely.” (67) Applies to Carmichael also.

“Thinking of one sex as different from the other is an effort.” ANALYSIS (95)

* Women’s literature evolving: novel transitioning from self-expression to art. (78)
  + “Books continue each other” (79)
* Mary Carmichael: “Something tore, something scratched”
  + “Terseness, shortwindedness”…afraid of being called sentimental.
  + “Heaping too many facts.”
  + Breaking sentences, breaking sequences. Consistent with VW’s idea of discontinuity, breaking the mind.
  + Question: What is to analyze?
* What is the meaning of “Chloe liked Olivia”?  
  + Relationships between two women are oversimplified, even by Shakespeare.
  + **But almost without exception they are shown in their relation to men (81) and not each other.**So we get an answer to the question: why are women romanticized by men: (see bottom of p. 81).
  + Carmichael reveals that women care about things besides domesticity.

* Imagine if Shakespeare had to write about men with the same limitations as writing about women.
* “For if Chloe likes Olivia…MC will light a torch in that vast chamber nobody has yet been.”
* One way women are different: “**for women are so suspicious of any interest that has not some obvious motive behind it…” (83)**
  + **Hence women are skeptical and they withdraw.**
* **Has to absorb new into the old without disturbing the infinitely intricate and elaborate balance of the whole (84).**
* What does VW mean by “laboratory”?
* VW chastised herself for “praising sex.” By the end, self awareness of sex is seen as a destroyer of art. (84)
* “There is no mark on the wall to measure the precise height of women.” No way to define women as great or less than great, as opposed to every man who ever lived.(84)
* Notice the gifts that only the opposite sex can bestow. She rattles off: ““admired, sought out, lived with, confided in, made love to, written of, trusted in, and shown what can only be described as some need of and dependence upon certain persons of the opposite sex.” (85)
* One may feel, “the nature of this intricacy and the power of this highly developed creative faculty among women.”
* How does the creative power of women differ from men? (86)  
  + “It would be a thousand pities if women wrote like men…” (86)
* **KEY QUESTION: HOW DO WE RECONCILE THIS CONTRADICTION: ELIMINATE SELF AWARNESS OF SEX BUT HONOR THE DIFFERENCE?**
* **Wow: “Ought not eduction to bring and fortify the differences rather than the similarities?” (86)**
* **“For we have too much likeness as it is, and if an explorer should come back and bring word of other sexes….nothing would be of greater service to humanity.” (86)**
* Story of the old woman and her daughter (88): the context of great events seems to mean nothing to her.
* So much for MC to explore then about these unexamined lives. Consider the link to Socrates about the “examined life.” “All that you will have to explore, I said to Mary Carmichael…” “Above all, you must illumine your own soul…” (88)
* There is a girl behind the counter…I would soon have her true history.
* Shilling in the back of the head that we can never see.

Chapter 6:

* The fascination of London is no two people are alike. This speaks to her theme about diversity of experience.
* “Thinking of one sex as distinct from another is an effort.” (95) Analysis.
* “It interferes with the unity of mind.”
  + “Mind has no single state because it shifts its concentration.”
* By contrast: it is natural for sex to cooperate. Fusion feeds unity of mind which feeds creative power. SELF AWARENESS.
* “There may be some state of mind in which one could continue without effort because nothing is required to be held back.” (96)
* Coleridge perhaps meant this when he said that a great mind is androgynous.   
    
  **The androgynous mind is resonant and porous; that it transmits emotion without impediment, that it is naturally creative, incandescent, and undivided.   
    
  Notice that the contemporary world is stridently “sex conscious”. (98) Theme of analysis.**

Mr. A.’s new novel (98) A man’s writing indicated freedom of mind, liberty, confidence.

Alan (character) overwhelms Phoebe. Significance of the Letter “I”

“An obstacle in Mr. A.’s mind that blocked creative energy.” He can no longer hum under his breath, so he takes over.

**Anger divides the mind (100) Mr. A. in the form of Alan is protesting equality, not being indecent for fun.**

**Consider this line: sentence “explodes and gives birth to all kinds of other ideas.”**

**A book targeted to one kind of person can be “incomprehensible.” Lacks suggestive power. Writers used to “use both sides of the mind equally” (102)**

**“It is fatal for anyone who writes to think of their sex.”**

**“The whole of the mind must lie wide open if we are to get the sense that the writer is communicating his experience with perfect fullness.”  
  
“There must be freedom and their must be peace.” (103)**

**WHAT IS REALITY? (108) Big theme…read through it.**