**CORE106-10**

**September 9, 2015**

**Study Questions for *A Room Of One’s Own:* Chapters 1-2**

**Professor Galaty’s Suggested Questions**

My suggestion is that you read these chapters, making your own marginal notes and underlinings. Then review the chapters with these questions (and others that occur to you) in mind. Then take the brief quiz on Moodle. Finally prepare your discussion sheet with questions and discussion.

**Chapter One**

* What does Woolf think the duty of a lecturer is?
* What is the “minor point” on which Woolf offers her opinion?
* What might Woolf mean by “Fiction here is likely to contain more truth than fact?”
* What does Woolf tell us about the narrator? About the setting?
* Who decides what is true?
* What is the metaphorical meaning of the river on page 5? What is the metaphorical meaning of the line? The fish?
* What is the meaning of the Beadle (6)?
* What is the meaning of the question “…what is style and what is meaning…” (7)
* How does the narrator feel when she views the library, the chapel, and the whole scene?
* What is the significance of the “flow of gold and silver?” (9) What is it used for?
* What is the significance of the descriptions of food (10, 17)?
* Compare the ”heaven” and “Vandyck” of pp. 11 and 18. What has happened?
* What is lacking on a Manx cat? What does this suggest about other things lacking in the narrator’s universe?
* What is the difference between poetry before and after the war? Why is this important to the narrator?
* Why does the narrator ask “which was truth and which was illusion”? (15)
* What does the narrator mean by “Fiction must stick to facts…?” (16)
* Who is the Mary Seton with whom the narrator chats on p. 18? (See the notes on p. 114)
* Back to money (19): How was it used, a propos of this piece? What happened when a women’s college was founded?
* Why did Mrs. Seton and her mother and grandmother, etc. not amass money to endow colleges for women? What was their life like? Who controlled the money they might have made?
* What is the irony in “…for some reason our mothers had mismanaged their affairs very gravely?” (23)
* What do you think the narrator thought as she pondered the effects of poverty and wealth on the mind and as she considered whether it is worse to be locked out or locked in? (24)

**Chapter Two**

* "If truth is not to be found on the shelves of the British Museum, where, I asked myself, picking up a notebook and a pencil, is truth?" What does this sentence suggest? Does she mean it? When you get to p. 108, compare this sentence.
* She asks why men write books about women when women do not write books about men. Be alert for the dimensions of her answer.
* What is the significance of the sketch that she doodles on p. 31?
* She is angry and the male authors are angry (32-33). What are the causes of their anger?
* What does seeing women as inferior do for men?
* What is she referring to when she says: "mirrors are essential to all violent and heroic action?" (35)
* Why does the narrator not need men? And who is Mary Beton? (see notes)
* What is "the poison of fear and bitterness which those days bred in me?" How is this relevant to her thesis? Remember this discussion when we read Bell Hooks.
* What is the relative worth of the work of the poor and the well-off?
* What will happen to women when they cease to be protected? Is she serious?