**CORE106-10**

**September 9, 2015**

**Study Questions for *A Room Of One’s Own:* Chapters 3-4**

**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 Three**

Question: why did Elizabethan (1558-1603) women not write while men produced great works of literature?

How were women treated in the Elizabethan age, while a woman ruled?

How does the narrator explain the fact that there are wonderful woman protagonists while women were "locked up, beaten and flung about the room?"

Where do we find women in the history books?

On p. 46 the narrator introduces Judith Shakespeare. How was her experience different from her brother William? How were her talents different?

What is the significance of her statement that "genius like Shakespeare’s is not born among labouring, uneducated, servile people?" (48) How does this relate to her theme?

Why did several nineteenth century women writers take the name of a man? (50)

How difficult was it for the most talented men to write works of genius? (51)

Why does a woman writer need a room of her own? (52)

What did influential male writers think of women writers?

What did Keats have written on his tomb? (See notes)

What does she mean when she says that mind of an artists should be incandescent?

**Chapter Four**

In what way is Lady Winchilsea's mind not incandescent? What does she write about?

What was the importance of letters?

How does Dorothy Osborne contrast nobles and peasants? (62)

Why is the work of Aphra Ben a turning point?

What probably changed in British society in order that an Aphra Ben was possible?

What is, to the narrator, more historically important than the Crusades or the Wars of the Roses?

Why did eighteenth century women write novels and not, say, poetry? (This question has a complex answer.)

How are Shakespeare and Jane Austen similar? How is Charlotte Bronte different than they?

Is the narrator obeying her own advice? Is she ironically aware of this?

What is the meaning of "integrity" in the case of a novelist? (71) How does Charlotte Bronte measure up to this definition?

In what ways do the values of women differ from those of men?

How does external criticism affect a woman's novel?

Jane Austen and Emily Bronte wrote not as men wrote but as women wrote. (74)

What does this mean?

On the bottom of p. 75 Woolf writes "a man's sentence that was unsuited for a woman's use." Why is it unsuitable?

So why novels?