**CORE106-10**

**September 9, 2015**

**Study Questions for *A Room Of One’s Own:* Chapters 5-6**

**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 Five**

The narrator takes down a book. Who is the author (see notes)? Why does Woolf (the author) make this choice, do you think?

What is the narrator looking for as she assesses Mary Carmichael’s work?

Why is the sentence "Chloe liked Olivia" so striking?

What does the narrator mean when she notes that a woman watching another woman (Chloe/Olivia) has never been seen since the world began? How must this be approached in a subtle, accurate, way?

On p. 84 Woolf says she does not want to praise her own sex. Why not? Does she think men and women are different? In what ways?

Starting on p. 88 Woolf lays out Mary Carmichael’s task (and thus that of women writers in general in Woolf's day). What are the dimensions of this task?

What is the significance of the "spot the size of a shilling?"

How is Mary Carmichael's life experience different from women who came before her? Where will the equivalent character be in another hundred years' time?

**Chapter Six**

What is the significance of two people getting into a cab? How does that exemplify the possibilities of "the unity of the mind?"

What does the narrator think Coleridge meant when he said that the great mind is androgynous?

What is boring about the letter "I?"

Why do neither Kipling nor Galsworthy have "a spark of the woman" in them? What might this mean?

Why do praise and blame mean nothing?

Reflect on the statement "the poor poet has not in these days, nor has he had for two hundred years, a dog's chance," followed by "Intellectual freedom depends upon material things." Has the narrator convinced you?

When the narrator asks: What is meant by "reality" (compare p. 26), what does she mean? How does her conception of reality differ from yours? What does she mean: "I am asking you to live in the presence of reality?" (109)

What would it mean to "Think of things in themselves?" (Remember this when we discuss Kant.)

What are the important themes in her words of advice to her young female audience?