

**English 65.401**  
**The Twentieth-Century Novel: The Nightmare of History**  
**Spring 2005**  
**MW 3-4:30**  
**MCNB286-7**

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Office hours: Tuesday 2-5

This course seeks to introduce students to the modern novel by considering several works in the context of major social and political upheavals of the twentieth century. We will trace the fate of modernism across the century, considering formal innovations in the novel against the background of migration, colonialism, industrialization, fascism, the World Wars, racism, class conflict, and shifts in the meaning of gender and sexuality. The course focuses in particular on the relationship between violence and subjectivity and on questions of memory, trauma, and history: we will read these novels as responses to a set of disorienting and disturbing historical events.

**Required Texts**

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*  
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*  
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*  
William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*  
Gayl Jones, *Corregidora*  
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist*  
Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*  
Hanif Kureishi, *The Black Album*  
D. H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*  
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
W. G. Sebald, *The Emigrants*  
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

**Course Requirements**

Attendance, participation, short writing assignments: 10%  
2 short papers (4-5 pages): 30%  
Final paper (10-12 pages): 30%  
Final Exam: 30%

Your attendance and participation are vital to the success of the class. Please come prepared—that is, having read the material and thought about it.

## Course Schedule

- Mon Jan 10 Course introduction
- Wed Jan 12 Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
- Mon Jan 17 NO CLASS—MLK DAY
- Wed Jan 19 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- Mon Jan 24 Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist* (part I)
- Wed Jan 26 Joyce, *Portrait* (parts II and III)
- Mon Jan 31 Joyce, *Portrait* (parts IV and V)
- Wed Feb 2 Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers* (Chapters I-X)
- Mon Feb 7 Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers* (to end)
- Wed Feb 9 Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (to “But to whom does the solitary traveler make reply?” –up to p. 58)
- Mon Feb 14 Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (to end)
- Wed Feb 16 Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (section I)
- Mon Feb 21 Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (sections II, III, and IV)  
PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS TODAY
- Wed Feb 23 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (to end of chapter 6)
- Mon Feb 28 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (to end of chapter 18)
- Wed Mar 2 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (to end)
- SPRING BREAK
- Mon Mar 14 Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Wed Mar 16 NO CLASS TODAY
- Mon Mar 21 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (part I)  
PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS TODAY
- Wed Mar 23 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (to end)

Mon Mar 28 Gayl Jones, *Corregidora* (parts I and II)  
Wed Mar 30 Gayl Jones, *Corregidora* (to end)  
Mon Apr 4 J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians* (to end of part III –p. 76)  
Wed Apr 6 J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians* (to end)  
Mon Apr 11 Hanif Kureishi, *The Black Album* (to end of Chapter 13)  
Wed Apr 13 Hanif Kureishi, *The Black Album* (to end)  
Mon Apr 18 W. G. Sebald, *The Emigrants* (first three sections)  
Wed Apr 20 W. G. Sebald, *The Emigrants* (to end)) and course wrap-up

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Final paper due: Monday, April 25 by 5:00 p.m.

Final Exam: Friday, May 6 8:30-10:30 a.m. Location to be announced