English 98r: Modernity and the Metropolis

Spring 2016
Tuesdays 2-4pm, Location TBD

Instructor: Matt Franks
mfranks (at) fas

“All cities are mad: but the madness is gallant. All cities are beautiful: but the beauty is grim.”
— Christopher Morley

New York. London. St. Petersburg. Paris. Dublin. Berlin. Tokyo. This tutorial moves through cities and decades to chart the rise of modernity as expressed in narrative genres. How and why did the city become the focal point for modernism? Works include novels by Dickens, Dostoevsky, Wharton, Woolf, and Kawabata; dramas by Wilde, Shaw, and Joyce; poems by Whitman, Baudelaire, and Eliot; films by Lang and Chaplin; and stories by Poe and Conan Doyle. We will examine these works alongside urban studies and criticism representing various methods: Marxism, structuralism, post-colonialism, feminism, new historicism, queer theory, and the digital humanities. These works are open to change based on student interests.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation 10%
Weekly short response (300-500 words) on course blog, due 24 hours before tutorial (all weeks that tutorial meets, except when other written assignments are due) 20%
Short paper (5-6 pp.), due 2/16 15%
Junior Paper prospectus (2 pp.) with annotated bibliography (2 pp.), including meeting with the departmental writing fellow, due 3/1 10%
Junior Paper draft (10 pp.) due Week 3/29. Complete draft (20-25 pp.) due 4/19 15%
Junior Paper due 5/3 (by 4pm, one copy to department, one copy to Matt) 30%

If students do not turn in a final paper, they will not be receiving a passing grade for the tutorial. The English Department also requires attendance at the following meetings:

Tutorial-Wide Meeting #1: Tuesday, February 16, 4-5pm, Barker 133
Tutorial-Wide Meeting #2: Tuesday, March 22, 4-5pm, Barker 133
Conference: Tuesday, May 3 OR Wednesday, May 4 (TBD), 4-6:30pm, Thompson Room

Required Texts

Dickens, Our Mutual Friend (Penguin, 978-0140434972)
Dostoevsky, Notes from the Underground and The Double (Penguin, 978-0140455120)
Kawabata, The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa (UC, 978-0520241824)
Wharton, The Age of Innocence (Penguin, 978-0140189704)
Wilde, Picture of Dorian Gray (Penguin, 978-0141439570)
Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway (Mariner Books, 978-0156628709)
Zola, The Drinking Den (Penguin, 978-0140449549)

All other materials will be provided on the course website.
Provisional Schedule

January 26
Poe, “The Man in the Crowd” (1840)
Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (1856)
Calvino, from Invisible Cities (1972)
* Raymond Williams, from The Country and the City (1972)

February 2
Dickens, Our Mutual Friend Books 1-2 (1865)
* Ian Watt, from The Rise of the Novel (1957)
Library Visit

February 9
Dickens, Our Mutual Friend Books 3-4 (1865)
* Roland Barthes, “The Reality Effect” (1968)

February 16
Dostoevsky, Notes from the Underground (1864)
* M. M. Bakhtin, “Discourse in the Novel” (1935)
Short paper (5-6 pp.) due in tutorial; no blog post this week
Tutorial-Wide Meeting #1: 4-5pm, Barker 133

February 23
Baudelaire, “The Swan,” “The Seven Old Men,” “The Little Old Women” (1857)
Zola, The Drinking Den (1877)
* Rita Felski, from The Gender of Modernity (1995)

March 1
Conan Doyle, stories from The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1892)
* Franco Moretti, from Graphs, Maps, and Trees (2005)
Junior Paper prospectus (2 pp.) with annotated bibliography (2 pp.), including meeting with the departmental writing fellow, due in tutorial; no blog post this week

March 8
Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891), An Ideal Husband (1895)
* James Eli Adams, from Dandies and Desert Saints (1995)

[March 15 – Spring Break]

March 22
Shaw, Pygmalion (1913)
Eliot, “The Waste Land” (1922)
* Sigmund Freud, from Civilization and its Discontents (1930)
Tutorial-Wide Meeting #2: 4-5pm, Barker 133
March 29
Joyce, stories from *Dubliners* (1914), “Circe” from *Ulysses* (1922)
* Derek Attridge, from *Semicolonial Joyce* (2000)
**Junior Paper draft (10 pp.) due in tutorial; no blog post this week**

April 5
Wharton, *The Age of Innocence* (1920)
* Jane Jacobs, from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961)

April 12
Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925)
* Sharon Marcus, from *Between Women* (2007)

April 19
Lang dir., *Metropolis* (1927)
Chaplin dir., *Modern Times* (1936)
* Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (1936)
**Complete Junior Paper draft (20-25 pp.) due in tutorial; no blog post this week**

April 26
Kawabata, *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (1930)

**Junior Paper due Tuesday, May 3 by 4pm, one copy to department, one copy to Matt’s mailbox on the second floor of the Barker Center.**

**Junior Tutorial Conference will be held Tuesday, May 3 OR Wednesday, May 4 (TBD), 4-6:30pm, Thompson Room**