

Literature and Religion: Sympathy for the Devil E314J/RS306

Vital Course Info:

Time: M/W/F 10:00-10:50

Location: MEZ 1.202

Instructor: Ashley Squires, PhD

Email: lasquires@mail.utexas.edu

Office: Starbucks area inside the Texas Union

Office Hours: M/W 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

Course Description:

The figure of the Devil has inspired myriad artistic representations that reveal and inform the way we understand the source of ultimate evil and suffering—as a rebellious angel forever tormented by his separation from God, as a malevolent force in competition with a benevolent deity, as a trickster figure sparking mischief and mayhem, or as a motiveless malignity bent on causing pain and suffering wherever possible. This course will consist of an historical survey of literary representations of the Devil in the Western religious traditions, beginning with Marlowe’s depiction of the Faustian bargain and Milton’s fallen angel as epic hero, taking us into the present day. We will end with Salman Rushdie’s exploration of the angel/devil dichotomy in the context of globalization and religious extremism, considering how contemporary discussions of fundamentalism and terrorism have shaped our modern understanding of evil.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Perform “close reading”—reading that is sensitive to the connotations of language, the use of metaphor and image, and nuances of meaning
- Read literary texts according to three critical approaches: Formal, Historical, and Cultural
- Use the Oxford English Dictionary to decipher unfamiliar terms
- Write short critical papers about literary works that consist of a strong, original thesis and supporting evidence from the text
- Use PCL resources to find supporting material, usually in the form of scholarly books or articles, for writing assignments

Required Reading (subject to change):

Christopher Marlowe—*Dr. Faustus*

John Milton—*Paradise Lost*

James Hogg—*Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*

C.S. Lewis—*The Screwtape Letters*

Salman Rushdie—*The Satanic Verses*

Course packet of short readings by Dante, William Blake, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, and Flannery O’Connor (available at Jenn’s on 22nd and Guadalupe)

Website:

Students are required to register on our class website: e314spring12.pbworks.com. This website provides an easy way to turn in assignments and will facilitate workshop and peer review activities. Copies of the course policies and syllabus will also be available on the site.

Assessment:

Refer to the attached handout entitled “Understanding Your Grade” for a detailed description of criteria for each letter grade. + and – designations will be used.

10% Daily Quizzes

15% Reading Journal

15% Class Tumblr

30% Field Reports (three 2-3 page essays)

30% Major Essay (6-8 pages)

*All papers (field reports and major essays) may be revised and resubmitted at any point until May 11 at 11:59 pm. We will discuss what constitutes “revision” at an appropriate point in the semester.

**Please note: there is no participation component to this rubric. Final grades will be based on assignments only.

Attendance:

You are counted absent if you miss more than twenty minutes of any given class period. Regular and timely attendance is essential to doing well in this class, as we will have a reading quiz every day with no opportunities for make-ups. See “**Reading Quizzes**” later in this document. You are allowed four “free” absences for the entire semester. 5 absences will result in the deduction of a full letter grade from your final average. 7 absences will result in the deduction of two full letter grades. 9 or more absences will result in the deduction of three full letter grades, which in most cases means automatic failure. There will be no excused absences except for University approved holidays. Please save your four freebies for illnesses and emergencies.

Late Papers (applies only to Field Reports and Major Papers):

Papers are to be submitted online by 11:59 pm on date indicated on the syllabus. There are no grade penalties for submitting a late paper. Providing deadlines, however, ensures that I can grade and return papers to the class in a timely fashion and that you get the full benefit of a “process-oriented” approach to writing instruction. I regard the due dates listed on the syllabus as a contract with you, the student. If you meet your end of the bargain, then I can promise that all papers submitted on the scheduled Friday will be returned the following week with extensive feedback to assist you if you choose to revise. However, if you submit a paper late, then I am not obligated to return your paper to you until the next time I grade, and I always grade in batches, so you may have to wait until the next major deadline. Papers submitted after the last day of classes (May 4) will receive little (if any) feedback due to time constraints unless you specifically seek me out during office hours. ******Exception for reading journals:** reading journals must be turned in on the designated day. You will be penalized a full letter grade for each class day that the journal is late.****

Grammar:

Despite whatever impressions you may have gotten from English teachers past, I do not sit up at night thinking about the subjunctive, and I am likely to forgive a comma splice or sentence fragment here and there so long as it doesn’t make my task as a reader tortuous. I have no

official procedure for grading grammar mistakes (1 point off for every missing comma!) other than saying that if your paper does not make sense or is difficult to read, you will lose points in categories on my rubric ranging from organization to clarity to editing in addition to being responsible for your instructor overdosing on non-prescription headache meds. Reference guides like *The Little Penguin Handbook* are highly useful resources that you are likely to consult throughout your college career.

Citations:

For research based projects, all sources need to be cited using MLA format, and parenthetical citations for all quotes and paraphrases must be included along with a Works Cited page at the end of the document. Papers with an average of 2 missing citations per paragraph will automatically receive a failing grade and are eligible for academic dishonesty hearings, since the line between forgetfulness and deliberate plagiarism is often quite fuzzy (see below). Papers without a Works Cited will be reduced a full letter grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Don't mess with this stuff. Please review the university policy on academic integrity. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to ask, as misunderstandings are probably the Number One reason we hold academic dishonesty hearings. Unfortunately, the consequences are no less dire even if your intent was pure. Cases of "accidental" or "ambiguous" plagiarism (missing citations or no attempt to distinguish between cited material and your own words) usually result in failure of the assignment with no opportunity for a rewrite. Cases of egregious plagiarism (purchasing a paper online or copying an entire paper from another student or an outside source) result in failure of the course. All academic dishonesty cases will be reported to the Dean of Students regardless of the level of egregiousness. If you are unsure about citation procedures, please check an MLA handbook, go to the UWC, or consult an appropriate website, such as the Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab).

The Undergraduate Writing Center

The UWC is a resource available to you free of charge. Highly trained graduate and undergraduate consultants are available to assist you at any stage of the writing process from brainstorming to final editing. They also have numerous books and handouts available on grammar, format, and citation form. Many of the consultants are teaching or have taught RHE 306 and 309. The location is FAC 211. Hours are M-Th, 9:00am – 8:00pm and Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm. They accept walk-ins, but appointments can drastically reduce wait times. Call 232-2730 to reserve a time. You cannot meet with a UWC consultant if your paper is due in two hours or less.

Reading Journal:

The reading journal is a tool designed to help you process the texts we work with in class. The journal can be kept in a notebook or as a Word document on your computer. However, it should be in a form that you can bring to class every day. For each day of class, your journal entry should include the following:

- Notes that might help you during daily quizzes
- Two discussion topics or questions (you can expect to be called on for these throughout the semester)
- An informal response to the days reading(s) that goes beyond "I liked/hated/didn't understand it." These can be as short as 100 words. This is a completion grade, so

your reflections don't have to be brilliant. I just want to see you trying. **Occasionally, I will supply a prompt for this portion of the journal entry.**

The journal may also be used to brainstorm formal writing assignments (and can be highly useful for that). Remember to note the page numbers of plot events or quotes you found interesting.

I will grade your journal for completion once at mid-term and at the end of the semester:

A = 9+ (midterm)/18+ (final) completed entries

B = 7-8 (midterm)/15-17 (final) completed entries

C = 5-6 (midterm)/12-14 (final) completed entries

D = 3-4 (midterm)/8-11 (final) completed entries

F = <3 (midterm)/<8 (final) completed entries

Daily Quizzes

I will give a reading quiz every Monday and Friday at the start of class except for the first and final weeks. You are allowed to use your reading journal, but not the actual reading assignment, to help you. There will be no make-up opportunities, so skipping class or arriving late will mean a 0 for that quiz. I will, however, drop your four lowest quiz grades (including 0's) at the end of the semester.

Workshopping

Every student will sign up to workshop a paper for 15 minutes on a designated class day. A sign-up sheet will be posted to our class website early in the semester. On your workshop day, you should upload a complete draft of an assignment in progress, typically whichever assignment has an impending due date, though each student is welcome to choose an assignment out of sequence. This can be either a first submission or a revision of a previous assignment and represents an opportunity to get yet another form of feedback on your work. It is also an excellent opportunity for the members of the class to see what others are working on and how the writing process develops. You will be exempt from the quiz and receive an automatic "5" on your workshop day, in order to allow you to prepare.

Disability Services:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Reading Schedule¹

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Writing Assignment ²
Week 1			
1/18	Introduction to the course		
1/20	Introduction cont'd. Journal Prompt: What is the nature of evil and where does it come from?		
Week 2			
1/23	Introduction to literary analysis—three critical approaches; Jonathan Goldstein—"Adam and Eve"	Packet	
1/25	Tumblr Discussion		
1/27	Dante— <i>Inferno</i> , Cantos 22-24 Journal Prompt: Describe the devil as he appears in the <i>Inferno</i> . How is this different from modern representations?	Packet	
Week 3			
1/30	Christopher Marlowe— <i>Dr. Faustus</i> , Act I-II	p. 105-159 ³	First Tumblr posts due
2/1	Field Report Discussion		
2/3	Christopher Marlowe— <i>Dr. Faustus</i> , Act III-V	p. 160-198	
Week 4			
2/6	John Milton— <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book I-II	p. 1-55	
2/8	Writing Workshop: FR 1 Draft Session		Rough Draft of FR 1 (bring to class)
2/10	John Milton— <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book III-IV	p. 55-105	Complete Draft of FR 1 (due on the website by 11:59 pm)
Week 5			
2/13	John Milton— <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book V-VI	p. 105-158	
2/15	Writing Workshop		
2/17	John Milton— <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book IX-X	p. 196-259	
Week 6			
2/20	James Hogg— <i>The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i>	p. 5-108ish	
2/22	James Hogg— <i>The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i>		
2/24	James Hogg— <i>The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i>	p. 108-237	Revision of FR 1
Week 7			

¹ Subject to change.

² Deadline for timely feedback (see course policy) is 11:59 pm on the date listed.

³ All page numbers refer to the edition listed on the syllabus.

2/27	William Blake— <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i>	Packet	
2/29	Writing Workshop and/or Catch-up Day		
3/2	Nathanael Hawthorne—“Young Goodman Brown”	Packet	
Week 8			
3/5	Writing Conferences		
3/7	Writing Conferences		
3/9	Writing Conferences		First Draft of FR 2
Week 9	Spring Break		
3/19	Mark Twain— <i>Letters from the Earth</i>	Packet	
3/21	Writing Workshop and/or Twain discussion		
3/23	Flannery O’Connor, “The Lame Shall Enter First”	Packet	
Week 10			
3/26	C.S. Lewis— <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> , Ch. 1-19	p. 1-103	
3/28	Writing Workshop: Look at FR 3 drafts in class		
3/30	C.S. Lewis— <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> , Ch. 20-31	p. 105-175	First Draft of FR 3
Week 11			
4/2	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part I	p. 1-89	
4/4	Writing Workshop: Discuss final papers		
4/6	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part II	p. 91-129	
Week 12			
4/9	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part III	p. 131-207	
4/11	Writing Workshop: Online research		
4/13	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part IV	p. 209-247	
Week 13			
4/16	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part V	p. 249-367	
4/18	Writing Workshop: Peer Review final paper drafts		Rough Draft of Final Paper (bring to class)
4/20	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part VI	p. 369-407	
Week 14			
4/23	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part VII	p. 409-483	
4/25	Writing Workshop: Wrap up blog, discuss remaining paper issues		
4/27	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part VIII	p. 485-521	First Draft of Final Paper
Week 15			
4/30	Salman Rushdie— <i>The Satanic Verses</i> , Part IX and “Imagine There’s No Heaven”	p. 523-561, Packet	
5/2	Course evals, wrap-up		

5/4	Wrap-up		
Exam Week	Extra office hours on a schedule TBD		
5/11	Absolute last day to turn anything in. No exceptions.		