

Robert Johnson

BW 218

Office Phone: 940-397-4300 (leave a message)

Class Hours: Online

E-mail: robert.johnson@msutexas.edu (preferred contact)

Office Hours: Tues, 1 to 3 PM; Wednesday, 10 AM to noon; Thursday, 8 to 9 AM; at BW 218

## **English 4613G—Special Topics: Literary Authors or Themes**

### **Topic: The Voice of British Modernism**

Spring 2022

#### **Texts: All Print Editions**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature.* 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. F only.  
*Howards End.* Forster. B&N.  
*Lighthousekeeping.* Winterson. Harcourt.  
*The Sound on the Page.* Yagoda. Harper Collins.

This class will examine some founding voices of British literature in the twentieth century. Writers chosen are thought to have had wide influence or to have spoken for particular ranges of significant issues. The last writer (Winterson) offers a transition into the following century.

In addition, we will engage a focus question: Do eras have a voice? That is, do writers of a given period speak with recognizable characteristics?

As a consequence, we will concentrate on work by Modernist writers who have been thought by critics to present a distinctive voice on the page, rather than making a survey of the era as a whole.

Information about English course objectives can be found on the department webpage.

#### **Course Requirements**

Final marks in the class will be created through the following efforts:

We will write three exams, as indicated on the class schedule. Each will cover the unit of work we just have finished. That is, exam three will not be a comprehensive final.

Each exam will have two parts: one written in the assigned time period (short answers, fill-in blanks, multiple-choice) and worth 70% of the exam grade; one, an essay of four-to-five pages responding to questions available before the exam date, and worth 30% of the exam grade).

The final class grade will be determined by the average of the exam grad

Final marks in the class will be created through the following efforts:

We will write three exams, as indicated on the class schedule. Each will cover the unit of work we just have finished. That is, exam three will not be a comprehensive final.

Each exam will have two parts: one written in the assigned time period (short answers, fill-in blanks, multiple-choice) and worth 70% of the exam grade; one, an essay of four-to-five pages responding to questions available before the exam date, and worth 30% of the exam grade).

In addition to meeting the course requirements above, each graduate member of the section will research and complete a graduate project as described in the supplemental document called "Graduate Project." The project's grade will create 30% of the final class grade. For graduate members, the exam average will create the other 70% of the final class mark. [Note: This distribution is, thus, different from that applying to undergraduate work in this class.]

Anyone taking the class for graduate credit will be expected to submit prose, and exam answers, of appropriate depth and complexity. The exam and class-project essays should demonstrate an appreciation for writing as a process of discovery. The class essay will attempt to bring new insights to established positions. All work submitted will be evaluated with appropriate graduate-level expectations.

**Final Examination/** We have no final . . . we will write a unit exam as our last exam.

**Grading Policies** In this class, the following numerical equivalents for **final** grades are used: *A* = 100-90; *B* = 89-80; *C* = 79-70; *D* = 69-60; *F* = 59-0. For grade sources, see above, "Course Requirements."

**Submission Format and Policy** All essays will be submitted in MLA format (7th edition preferred). Specific instructions will accompany each set of exam questions.

By enrolling in this class, the student expressly grants MSU Texas a "limited right" to all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

**Note:** Students may not submit for a grade in this class a paper that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course.

**Late Paper/Assignment Policy** I'm sorry, but no late work can be accepted unless arrangements have been made with me. Thanks for understanding.

**Plagiarism Policy** For our purposes, plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in one's own work, without appropriate documentation (usually, a parenthetical citation at sentence end, backed with a listing in a "Works Cited" section)—whether one uses that material in a quotation,

paraphrase, or summary. Theft of intellectual property will not be tolerated, intentional or not.

All written work will be turned in accompanied by drafts. So, please save all drafts of everything written for a grade. In any case when I suspect undeclared influence, I immediately will ask the writer to demonstrate at an office conference, through drafts and understanding of the essay at hand, how s/he wrote it and that s/he wrote it. Any work about which I have doubts will be assigned an *F*. None of the exam essays will be based on secondary sources. We will not have time to meet regarding exam essay three, so, regarding that last written effort, my judgment will stand. Thanks for understanding.

**Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other notions, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Any student with a disability requiring accommodation should contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

**Safe Zones Statement**

The instructor considers this class to be an intellectual space where everyone will be treated with respect—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. In addition, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided everyone can agree to disagree. The instructor expects that all students consider the class a safe environment.

**Contacting Your Instructor**

All instructors in the department have voicemail and MSU Texas e-mail addresses. Students should make sure to add the instructor's phone number and e-mail address to lists of contacts.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance in an online class is a matter of commitment. Online education requires a strong sense of self-starting and perseverance. Class members are expected to keep up with the reading and to pose questions at each step along the way. The instructor is available by e-mail and phone and, if need be, can schedule ZOOM meetings to supplement instruction. But cramming and last-minute writing will not well

serve the class aims. Moreover, such practices might well weaken understanding of the materials at hand and, thus, performance and final marks.

**Other Policies**

Grading Note: In marking the first exam essay, the instructor will reserve the choice of awarding a grade of  $\sqrt{-}$  to failing essays. Any essay awarded this grade can be revised once in an effort to earn a *D*. The revision must be turned in, accompanied by all originally due materials, no later than one calendar week from the day the essay was returned to the class, and the revision can be made only after having met with the instructor during regular office hours to plan the effort. This offer applies only to this first essay

**University Learning Center**

Students should begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the MSU Texas Learning Center. Writing tutors cannot edit papers, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading. To any visit at the Center, writers always should bring the assignment prompt for the essay at hand so that the tutor will understand what is being accomplished.

**Writing Proficiency Requirement**

All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement. With any questions, one can visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <http://academics.mwsu.edu/wpr> or call 397-4131.

**MSU Campus-Carry Statement**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please

refer to the University's webpage at <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

**Daily Schedule**

See posted tentative schedule.