

## **English 496A. Seminar for Seniors. Studies in Literary Symbolism**

Meets Mon, Wed., Fri. 1:00-1:50 in Mod. Lang. 205

Professor Willard

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Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 12:00-12:50 and by appointment

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Close study of symbolic structures, myths, and images in selected poems such as Donne's *Nocturne*, Blake's *Mental Traveler*, Baudelaire's *Invitation to the Voyage*, and Eliot's *Waste Land*. Each student will lead a seminar discussion, write two short essays, and complete a research project related in some way to the theory and practice of symbolism in works we have studied.

### **Required Reading/Reference**

*The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed.

Reading packets posted on D2L

### **Requirements**

10% Reflective essay and portfolio of sample writing

30% Seminar papers and presentations

20% Mid-semester exam

30% Research essay

10% Attendance, participation, and in-class writing

### Week 1. Aug. 24-28. Introduction

Mon. Course goals and requirements

Wed. Read the essays on "symbol" and "symbolism" in Reading Packet 1

Fri.

### Week 2. Aug. 31 - Sep. 4. Invitations to symbolism

Mon. Baudelaire, "Correspondences," "Invitation to the Voyage" (verse)

Wed. Baudelaire, "Invitation to the Voyage" (prose)

Fri. First essay: symbolism in the verse and prose versions (500 words)

### Week 3. Sep. 7-11. Baudelaire and Rimbaud

Mon. Labor Day. No class meeting

Wed. Baudelaire, "The Voyage"

Fri. Rimbaud, "The Drunken Boat"

### Week 4. Sep. 14-18. Donne

Mon. "The Sunne-rising," "A Valediction: forbidding mourning"

Wed. "A Nocturnal upon S. Lucies Day"

Fri. "Loves Alchymie," "The Extasie." Last day to drop without a "W"

Week 5. Sep. 21-25. Spenser

Mon. *Mutabilitie*, canto 6

Wed. *Mutabilitie*, canto 7

Fri. *Mutabilitie*, canto 8

Week 6. Sep. 28 – Oct. 2. Keats

Mon. "Ode to a Nightengale" (Yom Kippur)

Wed. *Lamia*, part 1

Fri. *Lamia*, part 2

Week 7. Oct. 5-9

Mon. Review

Wed. Mid-semester exam

Fri. Visit to Special Collections (or activity TBA)

Week 8. Oct. 12-16. Eliot

Mon. "Tradition and the Individual Talent"

Wed. *The Waste Land*, part 1

Fri. *The Waste Land*, part 2. Last day to drop without an "E"

Week 9. Oct. 19-23. Eliot (continued)

Mon. *The Waste Land*, part 3

Wed. *The Waste Land*, part 4

Fri. *The Waste Land*, part 5

Week 10. Oct. 26-30. Yeats

Mon. "The Symbolism of Poetry"

Wed. "Sailing to Byzantium" and "Byzantium"

Fri. "A Dialogue of Self and Soul" and "All Soul's Night"

Week 11. Nov. 2-6. Stevens

Mon. "Oak Leaves Have Hands"

Wed. "Esthétique du Mal"

Fri. "The Auroras of Autumn"

Week 12. Nov. 9-13. Thomas

Mon. "Fern Hill"  
Wed. Veterans Day. No class meeting  
Fri. "Altwarwise by owl-light"

Week 13. Nov. 16-20. Woolf

Mon. "The Mark on the Wall"  
Wed. "The Haunted House"  
Fri. "Monday or Tuesday"

Week 14. Nov. 23-27. Borges

Mon. "The Library of Babel"  
Wed. Thanksgiving holiday. No class meeting  
Fri. Thanksgiving holiday. No class meeting

Week 15. Nov. 30 – Dec. 4. Seminar presentations

Mon.  
Wed.  
Fri.

Week 16. Dec. 7-11. Seminar presentations

Mon.  
Wed. Review. Evaluations  
Fri. Office Hour: 9:30-10:30

Exam Week. Dec. 14-18

Mon. Final Exam (11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Mod. Lang. 205)