English 496A. Seminar for Seniors. Studies in Literary Symbolism
Meets Mon, Wed., Fri. 1:00-1:50 in Mod. Lang. 205

Professor Willard
Office: Mod. Lang. 330 Phone: (520) 621-1154
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)

Mon. Labor Day. No class meeting
Wed. Baudelaire, “The Voyage”
Fri. Rimbaud, “The Drunken Boat”

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


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)


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”


Mon.  The Waste Land, part 3
Wed.  The Waste Land, part 4
Fri.  The Waste Land, part 5


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”


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.


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)