ENG 2340: Correspondence

Course Sample
Welcome to ENG 2340
World Literature since 1600

New to the course? Click the Course Content link at left, then read the Get Started materials.

Returning to the course? Click the Course Content link and resume where you left off.

This course has recently been updated to improve assignment submission efficiency. Note that you will no longer submit assignments by emailing them to corrassign@txstate.edu. Effective immediately, all assignments will be submitted through TRACS. To submit an assignment, click the Assignments link in the left-hand navigation menu, select the appropriate assignment, and follow the instructions.

Although the course navigation menu has been altered and content pages may appear slightly different, all materials and course requirements are the same.
Course Content

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Lesson 2 - Africa
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Somewhat paradoxically, Russia is considered a European country, whereas Turkey is not. “Europe” is therefore more a cultural than a geographic concept. For this lesson, we’ll be studying writers from Ireland, Romania, France, and the Czech Republic, most of whom lived within 100 years of each other in a period historians call La Belle Époque (the beautiful times). In their writings we find their struggle to understand the world post-WWI.

Early in the twentieth century, before WWII, Europeans held an enormous confidence in the power of civilization to solve conflicts without warfare. It was an amazing time for intellectual developments, many of which would significantly impact twentieth-century thought. Marx and Engels explored dialectical materialism in The Communist Manifesto (1848); Charles Darwin expounded the theory of evolution by natural selection in his Origin of Species (1859); and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) revolutionized the study of psychology. Einstein’s theory of relativity (1905) introduced into science the relativity of all human observation—the fact that all phenomena change with one’s changing perspectives.

But as Winston Churchill later wrote in My Early Life, “little could we foresee how strong would be the tides that would bear us forward or apart with resistless force; still less the awful convulsions which would shake the world and shiver into fragments the structures of the nineteenth century.” The world’s—and particularly the Europeans’—utter shock at the barbarity and destruction unleashed in these wars became a major theme in the European literature of the twentieth century.

Some literary historians locate the beginning of the modernist revolt as far back as the 1890s, but most agree that “high modernism” came after the first World War. T.S. Eliot wrote in a review of Joyce’s Ulysses in 1923 that the inherited mode of ordering a literary work, which assumed a relatively coherent and stable social order, could no longer accord with “the immense panorama of futility and anarchy which is contemporary history” (Abrams 119). One might argue that Joyce’s, Kafka’s, Sartre’s, and Celan’s dark visions were a given—it’s what they felt and what they knew—but Joyce, Kafka and Sartre were not fatalistic; they used their art to counter unfair institutions and erroneous assumptions that rob us of our humanity and hope. Celan is less optimistic.

**Author Timeline**

Swift (1667-1745)

Joyce (1882-1941)

Kafka (1883-1961)

Sartre (1905-1981)

Celan (1920-1970)
Assignment - In progress

Title: Assignment 1
Due: Dec 31, 2018 5:00 pm
Status: In progress
Grade Scale: Points (max 100.0)
Modified by instructor: Jun 10, 2014 1:12 pm

Instructions
This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

Compose your submission in a single document. Attach the document as a .doc, .docx, or .rtf file, then click Submit.

Be sure to correctly cite all sources you use according to Modern Language Association (MLA) style. Refer to the MLA Style Guide for assistance.

Respond to the following three topics. Each response should be one page in length.

1. Since so many of the forms represented in this lesson were experimental and often connected to contemporary political events, select one such event and discuss how the real world influenced the artistic one. Remember to cite any sources. Do not bother summarizing the literature—I have read it—but instead analyze it, discussing how the author was influenced by what was going on in his world at that time.

2. When “The Metamorphosis” was about to be published, Kafka wrote to the publisher, imploring that the cover illustration avoid any attempt to depict the insect itself, even from a distance. Why would Kafka wish to avoid such a literal interpretation of his work? What would be lost? You will need to include a discussion of artistic expressionism in your answer—why did Kafka reject realism and naturalism and instead present images of the inner reality of modern life?

3. Jean Paul Sartre has been labeled an existentialist. Using the discussion of existentialism in the glossary for this section, explore to what extent “The Wall” represents existentialist thought.

Free Tutoring Available!

Feel like you might need a little help with your assignment? Don’t forget that there are two resources available to you that provide free assistance with writing-related assignments:

1. Smarthinking is an online tutoring service, and access to it is provided to all students enrolled in a Texas State correspondence course. You can submit a piece of written work to their Online Writing Lab (OWL) and have it reviewed by an e-structor and returned to you, usually within 24 hours, and guaranteed within 72 hours. You’ll need a username and password, though; to get one, all you have to do is call Texas State’s Office of Distance and Extended Learning at 800.511.8656 or 512.245.2322 or email them at corrstudy@bstate.edu.

2. The Texas State Writing Center’s online tutoring service allows Texas State correspondence study students to work with a writing tutor in real-time in an online environment. During the online tutorial, both the student and the tutor are able to see the student’s work on screen and can speak to one another via chat and/or microphone. Learn more about these online tutoring sessions or visit the Writing Center website to make an appointment.

If you choose to utilize one of these resources, don’t forget to give your tutor a copy of this assignment and the grading rubric.
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