

ENGL201

Distributed 9 February 2018

Major Assignment—DUE 23 MARCH 2018

The major assignment may be either 1) a critical essay of 1500 words on one or more assigned text, or 2) a digital project that critically engages with one or more assigned text and represents the equivalent amount of work as a 1500-word essay.

Substantial external research is not required, and detailed, close attention to the texts at hand will be the primary criteria for evaluation. If you choose an essay option, your essay should have: a strong introductory paragraph; an argumentative, non-obvious thesis; good logical progression of ideas; and well-formed body paragraphs that draw on evidence from the text.

If you wish to use the analyses you produced in your Digital Mapping Assignment, I encourage you to do so. However, the Major Assignment must represent a significant expansion from the Methodology Experiment assignment, and your TA or instructor will be attentive to whether you incorporated feedback from the previous assignments into your Major Assignment.

To submit essay assignments, please bring a paper copy to class and submit it **at the beginning of class**. Papers submitted at the end of or after class will be considered one day late.

To submit digital assignments, provide the instructor with digital files to the DropBox (<https://www.dropbox.com/request/HX5hesMoocrZin7X9MPt>) or a website URL by email **before the beginning of class**. Files or links submitted during or after class will be considered one day late. Please allow plenty of time for any lags in digital file transfer or email—they will not be accommodated.

Here are four options for essay topics:

Option 1: Discuss literary style in Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* (1925) in relation to **ONE OR MORE** of these topics:

- 1) The development of character; or,
- 2) The use of space and place in the novel; or,
- 3) Critiques of colonialism.

Option 2: How does Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* (1925) construct communities? For this topic, think carefully about how you define community: is a community defined by friendships and emotional bonds? Is it defined by a common goal?

Option 3: Discuss how modernist writers theorize literature in **TWO** of the following texts. Your paper may compare and contrast your chosen pieces, but it must still advance an argumentative thesis about modernist literary theory.

- Woolf, "Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Brown"
- Lawrence, "Why the Novel Matters"
- Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
- Jolas, "Revolution and the Word"
- Loy, "Feminist Manifesto"
- Breton and Eluard, "La Révolution surréaliste"

Here are some questions to ask yourself when formulating your thesis: How do writers conceptualize literature differently? Does modernist literature break from tradition or continue it? Does modernist literature reflect the theories of its authors, and does that matter?

Option 4: How does Hugh MacDiarmid's "A Drunk Man Looks at a Thistle" conform to or depart from dominant definitions of modernism? Your essay should clearly define the dominant definition of modernism it draws on, and should carefully ground its claims in textual evidence.

Here are two options for a digital project:

Option 5: Build a digital map for a text from the course other than "Wandering Rocks." Compare the two maps, and develop a strong, argumentative thesis and argument. What does map building show you about space and modernism? What does it show you about space and modernity? Your assignment must represent the equivalent amount of work as a 1500-word paper—think about the balance of argumentation and evidence in a digital form.

Option 6: Write a series of blog posts staging debates about literature from the course. Think about how a digital form can show complex, competing ideas. How do you want to structure your blog? Do you want to create multiple authors who respond to one another? Do you want to write commentary on a single, central post? Choose a suitable blog platform (talk to the instructor about options if you're not sure how to do this; there are many free platforms). You will be evaluated on how well you understand the literary theories from the course, and how you can synthesize and develop them in a digital form.

OR

Propose your own essay topic or digital project on one or more assigned text.

If you choose this option, please submit a proposal of approximately 250 words (which may be a proposed introductory paragraph if you wish) by email to me by Friday 10 March. A proposal is similar to an introductory paragraph of an essay: it should give an indication of the topic you wish to pursue, the argument that you wish to make, the evidence on which you plan to make it, the scope of your argument, and its significance. I will provide feedback on your proposal and I may wish to discuss it further.