Course Description

In all of human history, the novel is relatively new, only a little over two centuries old. The novel as an art form is even more recent, and the novel that focuses on the “workings” of the human mind, human perceptions of life and “reality,” the effects of conscious or unconscious actions and reactions . . . these begin to be focal issues, largely from the end of the nineteenth through the beginning of the twenty-first centuries.

-In this course we will consider these, as well as other ideas:

-Can we ever definitely know the difference between perceptions of reality? Are some perceptions “right” and some “wrong”? Are there actual, discernible differences in the way that females and males perceive and interact with the natural world and the people around them?
-Can we actually change society by forcibly “changing” the perceptions and eventually the actions of individuals?
-What if the “reality” that we perceive to be our life is but one in a chain of many lives? Would that be a “good” thing or a “tragic” thing?

Program Learning Outcomes

Students will
- closely and accurately read complex texts
- comprehend and apply critical theories with relevant interpretation to texts
- demonstrate knowledge of British literary history
- effectively conduct literary research
- write clear, grammatically correct prose

Texts

James *The Turn of the Screw* ISBN 9780393959048
Woolf *To the Lighthouse* ISBN 9780156907392
Orwell *1984* ISBN 9780451524935
Atkinson *Life After Life* ISBN 9780316176491
*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers-Eighth Edition*
**Course Requirements**

There will be frequent (almost daily) quizzes over the readings. They will be short answers, designed to stimulate discussion of the assigned passages for that day and will count 10 points each. These reading quizzes cannot be made up unless you have written documentation of a severe illness or some other serious and unavoidable distress that made it impossible for you to attend class on that day. Such documentation must be submitted to me and the make-up quiz must be taken no more than one class period after your return to class. I will drop the three lowest quiz grades and all other quiz grades will be averaged and counted toward your final grade.

There will be a final essay exam, based upon all of our readings and class discussions.

You will also do a critical analysis essay of 8-10 pages on a topic related to one of the assigned texts. For this essay, you must use and accurately cite (according to current MLA format) a minimum of ten sources, at least five of which must be hard copy articles and/or books that are available in the SFA library.

Come to me as soon as possible to discuss what you want to write about—as soon as I accept your topic, you may begin your research and writing.

**Grades**

- Participation ........................................ 10%
- Quizzes ........................................... 20%
- Final Exam ........................................ 20%
- Critical Essay ................................. 50%

**Participation—Attendance**

Mere attendance is not participation. I will take attendance each day, but there is no attendance grade. Participation involves careful pre-class preparation and willingness to engage the ideas that you’ve developed with your professor and classmates. The best possible format for such a class is one that mixes lectures and class discussion. In order for this format to be successful we must all read each assignment, take active notes about the various readings and our responses to them, and be willing to both assert our opinions and conscientiously listen to the opinions of others. Do not be afraid to ask questions and to offer opinions about the reading assignments. A substantial part of your final grade is based upon class participation, so I encourage you to attend regularly, be on time, and respond thoughtfully.

Participation grades will be lowered by many absences, by late arrival to class, by sleeping in class, by phones or other electronics going off in class, by net surfing, text messaging or any other disruption or discourtesy to the class.
**WH Grades**

Only assigned if course work cannot be completed due to unavoidable circumstances that must be documented for and approved by Dr. Given (with possible review and advice from the Department Chair).

**Disabilities**

To obtain related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Definition of academic dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of another into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Presenting someone else’s work as your own is a serious offense and will not be tolerated in the academic community of which you are a member. By this time in your academic career, you should be well acquainted with what constitutes plagiarism. If not, you should review the university policy on plagiarism at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

I reserve the right to fail any student who plagiarizes.

If you have ANY doubts about whether the idea that you are considering or the language that you are using is “yours” or someone else’s, SEE ME before you turn in your work and we will discuss how best to present it. Unfortunately, there have been several incidents at all undergraduate and graduate levels in which students thought that they could take shortcuts in their work without being caught and/or penalized. They were wrong. Remember—any of the Internet shortcuts available to students are also available to my colleagues and me. Our entire department is very serious about this issue and plagiarism in my class will result in a failing grade.
I HAVE READ AND DISCUSSED THE ABOVE GUIDELINES. I UNDERSTAND AND WILL WORK WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES AS LONG AS I AM ENROLLED IN THIS SECTION OF ENGLISH 426.

(Sign and Print your name here)
Tentative Class Plan English 426-Fall 2017

- Week 1: Aug 28-30  
  M- Intro: Syllabus  
  W- Discussion of Critical Essay Topics

- Week 2: Sept 4-6  
  M- *Turn of the Screw* 1-48  
  W- *Turn of the Screw* 49-85

- Week 3: Sept 11-13  
  M- *To the Lighthouse* 3-82  
  W- *To the Lighthouse* 82-143

- Week 4: Sept 18-20  
  M- *To the Lighthouse* 145-209  
  W- *1984* 298-312 (Appendix: Principles of Newspeak)

- Week 5: Sept 25-27  
  M- *1984* 1-104  
  W- *1984* 105-179

- Week 6: Oct 2-4  
  M- *1984* 179-297  
  W- Research Day-no class

- Week 7: Oct 9-11  
  M- *American Gods* 3-137  
  W- *American Gods* 138-204

- Week 8: Oct 16-18  
  M- *American Gods* 207-298  
  W- *American Gods* 299-371
- Week 9: Oct 23-25
  M- American Gods 375-482
  W- American Gods 485-529

- Week 10: Oct 30-Nov 1
  M- Life After Life 3-138
  W- Life After Life 138-199

- Week 11: Nov 6-8
  M- Life After Life 199-314
  W- Life After Life 317-379

- Week 12: Nov 13-15
  M- Life After Life 383-477
  W- Life After Life 481-529

- Week 13: Nov 20-22
  M- Thanksgiving
  W- Thanksgiving

- Week 14: Nov 27-29
  M- optional conferences (my office)
  W- optional conferences (my office)

- Week 15: Dec 4-6
  M- Final Drafts of Critical Essays Due
  W- Final Exam Prep

- Week 16: FINAL EXAM (date to be determined)