Course Description:

Charlotte Brontë’s 1847 novel, *Jane Eyre*, had a profound impact not only on subsequent nineteenth-century fiction, but also on twentieth and twenty-first century literary representations of female experience. Beginning with a close reading of Brontë’s novel, we will move on to exploring modern literary rewritings of this narrative. We will consider both how Brontë’s themes are carried out through these various texts and why her narrative has been such a rich source of reinterpretation.

Required Texts:

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*
Lorrie Moore, *A Gate at the Stairs*
Patricia Park, *Re Jane*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

You are required to obtain print versions of these novels. I have ordered the Oxford World’s Classics version of *Jane Eyre*, but you can also use another edition by a reputable press (Penguin, Norton, Broadview). Please avoid unreliable imprints available on Amazon (i.e., CreateSpace Independent Publishing).

Readings marked with an “*” are on e-reserve.

Course Requirements: 2-3-page papers (due September 14, October 22)
5-7-page paper #1 (September 26/October 2)
5-7-page paper #2 (November 7/November 13)
8-10-page paper (December 10)
Class Participation
Attendance is mandatory. You should come to class on time, having read the assigned material and prepared to participate actively in the discussion. Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your final grade. Please bring the assigned reading to every class meeting.

Your essays should be double-spaced and have one-inch margins; they should be typed in 12-point font. Please carefully proofread and spell-check the final drafts of your essays before handing them in. Late papers will be marked down (1/3 of a grade per day). You need to complete all work for the course to receive a passing grade.

Unless you obtain special permission, you may not use screens (computer, phone, tablet) in the classroom.

Grading:

3-page papers: 20%
5-7-page papers: 40%
8-10-page paper: 25%
Class Participation: 15%

Class Schedule:

Wednesday, August 29: Introduction

Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre (1847): Chapters 1-10 (until “unknown environs of Millcote”)

Wednesday, September 5: Jane Eyre, finish Volume I (until “as soon as day dawned”)

Monday, September 10: Jane Eyre, Volume II, chapters 1-7 (until “loved him so well”)

Wednesday, September 12: Jane Eyre, finish Volume II (until “floods overflowed me”)

Friday, September 14: 2-3-page paper due in my mailbox by 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 17: Volume III, chapters 1-8 (until “knocked me down”)

Wednesday, September 19: No class; Yom Kippur
Monday, September 24: *Jane Eyre:* finish novel

Wednesday, September 26: 5-7-page paper #1, introduction and first body paragraph due

Monday, October 1: Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* (1899): pp. 115-76 (until “poor little Miles himself”)

Tuesday, October 2: 5-7-page paper due in my mailbox by 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3: *Turn of the Screw:* finish

Monday, October 8: No class, fall break

Wednesday, October 10: Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca* (1938): Chapters 1-12 (pp. 1-151)

Monday, October 15: *Rebecca:* Chapters 12-20 (pp. 152-288)

Wednesday, October 17: *Rebecca:* Finish.

Monday, October 22: Special collections visit
2-3-page paper due

Tuesday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m.: Screening of Alfred Hitchcock’s *Rebecca* (1940, 130 min.)
Location TBA. If you can’t make this screening, please watch the film on your own before tomorrow’s class—it is available in the Media Commons.

Wednesday, October 24: *Maria Tatar, “’Have you ever really been afraid?....”* (2014)


Wednesday, October 31: *Wide Sargasso Sea:* Finish.
*Edwidge Danticat, “Introduction”* (to the Norton edition)
Monday, November 5: Library visit

Wednesday, November 7: Paper #2, introduction and first body paragraph due

Monday, November 12: Lorrie Moore, *A Gate at the Stairs* (2010): pp. 4-100

Tuesday, November 13: 5-7-page paper due in my mailbox by 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14: *Gate at the Stairs*: pp. 100-94

Monday, November 19: *Gate at the Stairs*: Finish novel
   *Susan Civale, “‘Reader, I Did Not Even Have Coffee with Him’”  
   (2016)*

Wednesday, November 21: No class—Thanksgiving


Wednesday, November 28: *Re Jane*: Finish

Sunday, December 2, at 7 p.m.: Screening of Cary Joji Fukunaga, *Jane Eyre* (2011, 120 min.)
   Location TBA. If you can’t make this screening, please watch the film on your own before tomorrow’s class—it is available in the Media Commons.


Wednesday, December 5: Final paper workshop—inroduction, first body paragraph, and sources due

8-10-page final paper is due in my mailbox by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 10.