

Course Policies and Requirements for The Works of Joseph Conrad

Professor:

Jack Peters

Course:

English 4900, Section 740
201 Auditorium, 12:30-1:50 MW

Texts:

Cambridge Introduction to Joseph Conrad (Cambridge)
Heart of Darkness (Broadview 2019 edition)
The Secret Agent (Broadview)
The Secret Sharer and Other Stories (Norton)
Later stories (handout posted on Canvas)

Lord Jim (Broadview)
Nostromo (Oxford)
Under Western Eyes (Broadview)
Almayer's Folly (Modern Library)

Office:

115 Auditorium Building

Office Telephone:

565-2679

Office Hours:

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. MW, by appointment,
or most times I am in my office

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Course Requirements:

The requirements for this course are as follows: the completion of 1 term paper, a mid-term exam, a final exam, and reading quizzes. The mid-term exam and the final exam will each be worth 33% of your final grade for the class. The term paper will be worth 34% of your final grade, unless I have to implement an attendance policy in which case the percentages will change.

Course Subject Matter:

This course will be an in-depth investigation into the writings of Joseph Conrad. We will begin with an overview and background on Conrad's life and writing career as well as the historical, cultural, and literary environment in which he wrote. We will then consider a selection of his fiction, beginning with his first novel and ending with one of his later novels. I assume that we will spend roughly a week and a half to two weeks per each longer work and less on shorter works, but we may choose to linger over some works or move past others more quickly than originally expected.

Attendance:

At this point, I do not have an attendance or tardiness policy as such, but if lack of attendance and/or frequent tardiness becomes a problem, I will implement an attendance policy. Whether you're present or absent, you're responsible for all material we cover in class, including any changes in due dates, policies, or reading assignments.

Assignments:

Late Term Papers: I expect term papers to be turned in on the day they are due; nevertheless, you have a grace period for the term paper. The date is in the Daily Schedule. If you turn in the paper before the end of the grace period, there is no penalty. If for any reason it comes in any time after the grace period ends by my watch (even a minute or two), I'll deduct 6% off the grade for the term paper. In addition, I'll deduct 6% for each day thereafter that your paper is not turned in. If you're out of town, and you want to turn in a late term paper to avoid further penalty and you don't have access to the internet, you can always mail me the term paper, and I'll consider it turned in as of the postmark date. The only exception to this late term paper policy is in the extremely rare case when it is impossible, because of excused absences, to turn in the term paper on the due date or during the grace period. Otherwise, there are no extensions beyond the grace period. If your term paper is late for an extended period, I may limit the penalty somewhat.

Mid-Term and Final Exams: The mid-term exam will likely be made up of 10 short-answer questions that will demonstrate your understanding of the material we have covered to that point. The final exam will also likely be made up of 10 short-answer questions and may also include 1 essay question that you will choose from a number of alternatives. The essay would be intended to demonstrate your ability to apply what you have learned in somewhat different contexts from those we discussed in class. If necessary, I scale mid-term and/or final exam grades. I do not give early or late mid-term or final exams except in extremely unusual circumstances..

Final Grades: Your final class grade will be calculated based on the percentages noted earlier. I use standard percentages for grades (0% - 59.4% = F; 59.5% - 69.4% = D; 69.5% - 79.4% = C; 79.5% - 89.4% = B; 89.5% - 100% = A). If necessary, I scale final grades. There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Texts and Readings:

The texts are on sale at the student bookstore. You may use another edition of the books, although the page numbering will differ and some of the material may also differ. I have also placed a copy of the texts on reserve in the library (though not necessarily the editions we are using). You should read ahead for heavier reading periods.

Accommodations:

In accordance with the terms and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, I cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for you if you qualify as a student with disabilities. Please register with ODA, and present your written request to me by the 4th class day.

Plagiarism:

It of course should go without saying that I won't tolerate plagiarism and that if you plagiarize any of your writing assignments, you will receive the maximum penalty allowed to me to assign. I will also report you to university standards for disciplinary action, regardless of your past performance or class standing. The use of generative AI writing tools (such as ChatGPT, GrammarlyGO, GPT-3, GPT-4, BERT, or others) is prohibited in this class. Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a writer without the use of these technologies. You will generate ideas, read, revise, and write on your own and/or in consultation with peers, me, or Writing Center tutors, and you will not use AI at any stage of your writing process. You are the author of your work for the course and authorship means you take responsibility for your words and claims. Any use of AI technologies in your work will be considered an violation of UNT's academic integrity policy and addressed accordingly.

Daily Schedule (Tentative)

- August 18: Introduction to course; "Preface," pp. 139-142, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*.
- August 20: *The Cambridge Introduction to Joseph Conrad*, chap. 1, pp. 1-16; *Almayer's Folly*, chapter 1.
- August 25: *Almayer's Folly*, chapters 2-8.
- August 27: *Almayer's Folly*, chapters 9-12; "Author's Note," pp. xxvii-xxviii.
- September 1: No Class; Labor Day.
- September 3: *Heart of Darkness*, part one, pp. pp. 49-87.
- September 8: *Heart of Darkness*, part two, pp. 88-116.
- September 10: *Heart of Darkness*, part three, pp. 116-143; "Preface to *Youth*," pp. 45-47.
- September 15: *Lord Jim*, chapters 1-11.
- September 17: *Lord Jim*, chapters 12-20.
- September 22: *Lord Jim*, chapters 21-35.
- September 24: *Lord Jim*, chapters 36-45; "Author's Note," pp. 373-375.
- September 29: *Typhoon*, pp. 259-324, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*; "Author's Note" to *Typhoon and Other Stories* pp. 255-257, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*.
- October 1: *Nostromo*, part one.
- October 6: *Nostromo*, part two.
- October 8: *Nostromo*, part three, chapters 1-8.
- October 13: *Nostromo*, part three, chapters 9-13; "Author's Note," pp. 42-48.
- October 15: *The Secret Agent*, chapters 1-5.
- October 20: *The Secret Agent*, chapters 6-9.
- October 22: *The Secret Agent*, chapters 10-13; "Author's Note," pp. 233-238.
- October 27: *The Secret Agent*, continued; "Autocracy and War," pp. 371-397, in *Under Western Eyes*.
- October 29: *Under Western Eyes*, part one.
- November 3: *Under Western Eyes*, part two.
- November 5: *Under Western Eyes*, part three; First call for informal proposal.

- November 10: *Under Western Eyes*, part four; "Author's Note," pp. 44-46.
- November 12: *The Secret Sharer*, pp. 7-42, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*; "Author's Note" to *Twixt Land and Sea*, pp. 3-5, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*.
- November 17: *The Shadow-Line*, chapters 1-3, pp. 47-97, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*.
- November 19: *The Shadow-Line*, chapters 4-6, pp. 97-135, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*; "Author's Note" to *The Shadow-Line*, pp. 43-45, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*; *Last Day to Turn in Informal Proposal or Change Essay Topics*.
- November 24: No Class, Thanksgiving holiday.
- November 26: No Class, Thanksgiving holiday.
- December 1: Later Conrad short stories (handout on Canvas).
- December 3: Later Conrad short stories continued; Course conclusion; Essay Due.
- December 10: Grace Period for Essay Ends at 11:59 p.m. sharp.
- December 15: Deadline for turning in late papers ends at 2:00 p.m.
- Mid-Term exam and Final exam dates and times to be determined by students' schedules.