Course Policies and Requirements for The Works of Joseph Conrad

Professor:
Jack Peters

Course:
English 4450, Section 001
301 Language, 9:35-10:55 a.m. TTh

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 on Canvas)
Lord Jim (Broadview)
Nostromo (Oxrford)
Under Western Eyes (Broadview)
Almayer's Folly (Modern Library)

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Course Requirements:

The requirements for this course are as follows: the completion of 1 term paper and 2 exams (a mid-term exam and a final exam), and reading quizzes. The midterm exam will be worth 30% of your final grade, the final exam will be worth 30% of your final grade, the term paper will be worth 25% of your final grade, and the reading quizzes will be worth 15% of your final grade. If you fail to turn in the term paper or take an exam, you will likely fail for the course.

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.

Course Policies:

You are allowed 3 ***unexcused*** absences without penalty. You can use these absences for any reason, but use them wisely. Their purpose is to allow you to miss class if something important comes up that does not constitute an excused absence. Illness/pregnancy, family emergency (e.g., death in the family, etc.), observance of religious holidays, military service, and university-excused absences (i.e., participation in intercollegiate athletic events, etc.) are the only reasons for excused absences; all excused absences are subject to my judgment and require documentation on your part. You also must attend at least 75% of a class to get credit for attending that day. If you have 3 unexcused absences, I will drop your final grade for the class by 3%, and I will drop your final grade for the class by an additional 2% for every unexcused absence after that. If you miss more than 10 classes, depending upon the circumstances, I may ask you either to drop the class or take an incomplete (this latter only in the case of excused absences). I will pass around a roll each day for you to sign your name. It is your responsibility to sign these rolls. If you don't sign the roll and I don't remember that you were in class, then I will assume you were absent on that day. Even though you have 3 unexcused absences to work with, you should try not to miss class except when necessary, because it will be to your benefit to attend class, since much of the material appearing on the exams will be covered in class. As a result, students who chronically miss class generally don't do very well in the course. Although I have no standard tardiness policy, if

you are chronically late (in my judgment), I may count a certain number of tardy days as an unexcused absence. Also, reading quizzes are usually given during the first 10 minutes of class, and so if you arrive late you may miss a quiz. Quizzes missed because of tardiness cannot be made up unless the tardiness is a result of a good, documented reason (essentially that same as those that constitute an excused absence). In addition, 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. So make sure you check the notes of other students for any classes you miss.

Late Papers: I expect term papers to be turned in on the day they are due via Canvas; nevertheless, you have a grace period for each paper. The dates are listed on 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 (even a minute or two), I'll deduct 5% off the grade for the term paper. In addition, I'll deduct 5% for each day thereafter that your paper is not turned in. If you have trouble turning in your paper via Canvas, you can email it to me, and I will consider it turned at the time it shows up in my inbox. However, I will ask you to also turn your paper in via Canvas once it is available again. The only exception to this late paper policy is in the extremely rare case when it is impossible, because of an excused absence, to turn in the paper on the due date or during the grace period. Otherwise, there are no extensions beyond the grace period. If a paper is late for an extended period, I may limit the penalty somewhat.

Grading Criteria for Papers: The primary criteria for grading term papers will be content and presentation. I weigh the content somewhat more heavily than the presentation, but both are important, and I will expect you to be responsible for the rules of grammar, punctuation, and usage you learned in Freshman English. The term papers should be about 7-8 pages long, but a little more or less doesn't matter to me. Just make sure you adequately cover the material if it's short or that there isn't unnecessary information if it's long. I do not scale paper grades.

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 about the 4th class day.

Texts, Essays, Exams, Grades, Etc.:

Texts and Readings: The texts should be on sale at the student bookstore. You are welcome to use other editions of the book, although the page numbering will likely differ and some of the material may also be different. I have also placed a copy of the books on two-hour reserve in the library in case you don't have immediate access to the books. You should read ahead for any heavier reading periods.

Exams: The exams 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 consists of the same format as the mid-term exam. If necessary, I scale exam grades, I do not give early or late exams except in unusual circumstances..

Reading Quizzes: The purpose of reading quizzes is to determine whether you have read the material, not necessarily whether you have understood the material. If you have read the material carefully, you should do well on the quizzes, even if you have not fully understood it. Quizzes will usually be given during the first 10 minutes of the class and must be turned in when the 10 minutes is up. I drop the lowest quiz score. I do not scale quiz scores.

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, either by lowering the standards for a single grade or multiple grades or by scaling the entire class, depending on the type of scale required in a particular situation. There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Finally, if you plagiarize the term paper or cheat on an exam or quiz, you will receive the maximum penalty allowed to me, and I'll report you to university standards for disciplinary action, regardless of your past performance or current 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)[1]

August 18: Introduction to course.
August 20: *The Cambridge Introduction to Joseph Conrad*, chap. 1, pp. 1-16; "Preface," pp. 139-142, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*; *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: *Heart of Darkness*, part one, pp. pp. 49-87.
September 3: *Heart of Darkness*, part two, pp. 88-116.
September 8: *Heart of Darkness*, part three, pp. 116-143; "Preface to *Youth*," pp. 45-47.
September 10: *Lord Jim*, chapters 1-11.
September 15: *Lord Jim*, chapters 12-20.
September 17: *Lord Jim*, chapters 21-35.
September 22: *Lord Jim*, chapters 36-45; "Author's Note," pp. 373-375.
September 24: *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*.
September 29: Mid-Term Exam.
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: "Autocracy and War," pp. 371-397, in *Under Western Eyes*.
October 20: *The Secret Agent*, chapters 1-5.
October 22: *The Secret Agent*, chapters 6-9.
October 27: *The Secret Agent*, chapters 10-13; "Author's Note," pp. 233-238.
October 29: *The Secret Agent*, continued; First Call for Informal Proposal.
November 3: *Under Western Eyes*, part one.
November 5: *Under Western Eyes*, part two.
November 10: *Under Western Eyes*, part three.
November 12: *Under Western Eyes*, part four; "Author's Note," pp. 44-46.
November 17: *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 19: Later Conrad short stories (handout).
November 24: No Class, Thanksgiving holiday

[1]Titles in bold are required reading; titles not in bold are recommended reading.

November 26: No Class, Thanksgiving holiday

December 1: *The Shadow-Line*, chapters 1-6, pp. 47-135, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*l "Author's Note" to *The Shadow-Line,* pp. 43-45, in *The Secret Sharer and Other Stories*.; Last Day to Turn in Informal Proposal.

December 3: *The Shadow-Line*, continued; Course conclusion; Essay Due (to be turned in via Canvas).

December 8: Grace Period for Essay Ends at 11:59 p.m. Sharp.

December 10: Final Exam, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.