Spring 2013

ENG 4300-4390-003-097: Literature of Memory

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Dr. Francine McGregor  
Coleman 3355  
581-2428  

Office Hours: T/TH 9:30-10:30/12:30-1:30 and by appointment  

About the Course:  

Memory as desire, as identity, as illusion, as alienation, as the essential condition of being. How do what and how we remember help us define who we are? In this course, we’ll consider representations of memory in works by authors such as Augustine, Emily Dickinson, Angela Carter, Thomas Hardy, and Anne Tyler in order to explore how they use the theme of memory to sketch parameters of what we call the “self.”  

Required Texts:  
Carter, *Wise Children*  
Nabokov, *Speak. Memory*  
Tyler, *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*  

Course Requirements/ Evaluation  

1) Midterm paper  
2) Final paper  
3) Presentation/leading class discussion  
4) Class participation  
5) Final Exam  

Policies  

1) The reading load for this course is heavy and the material challenging, so make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete the assigned reading. Keep in mind that if you come to class unprepared, you’ll lose participation credit. On the less punitive side, class is simply a lot more fun and interesting when you know what everyone else is talking about and have ideas of your own to contribute.  
2) Much of what you will learn in this course will come from ideas generated in class discussion and so your presence in, and engagement with, the class are essential.
3) Assignments must be handed in within the first five minutes of class on the day they are due unless we have worked out a prior arrangement. Work handed in after that time will lose half a letter grade for each calendar day it is late. No work will be accepted a week after the deadline.

4) You must successfully complete all work for the course in order to receive a passing grade.

**Plagiarism Policy**

The following is the English department's statement concerning plagiarism:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of 'F' for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

While I assume I'll have no need to impose penalties for plagiarism, the ones I consider appropriate are that the student fail the course and be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office. If at any point in your writing for this course (or for another, if you like) you're uncertain about whether you're using sources appropriately, please come and talk to me.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know and please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Tentative Syllabus
(I'll notify you in advance of any changes)

Week 1: January
   Tues, 8: Course introduction
   Thurs, 10: Augustine, from Confessions (handout)

Week 2: January
   Tues, 15: Eudora Welty, “A Memory,” “The Winds” (handout)
   Siri Hustvedt, “On Reading” (handout)
   Thurs, 17: Freud, from Mourning and Melancholia (handout)

Week 3: January
   Tues, 22: Emily Dickinson, Selected Poems (handout)
   Thurs, 24: John Hollander, Selected Poems, (handout)

Week 4: January
   Tues, 29: Carter, Wise Children (pp 1-109)
   Thurs, 31: Carter, Wise Children (pp 110-37)

Week 5: February
   Tues, 5: Carter, Wise Children to end
   Thurs, 7: Tennyson, Selected Poems (handout)

Week 6: February
   Tues, 12: Thomas Hardy, from Poems of 1912-13 (handout)
   Thurs, 14: Anne Tyler, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant

Week 7: February
   Tues, 19: Anne Tyler, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant
   Thurs, 21: Anne Tyler, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant

Week 8: February
   Tues, 26: Brison, “Trauma Narratives and the Remaking of the Self” (handout)
   Thurs, 28: Trauma narratives

Week 9: March
   Tues, 5: Memorials
   Thurs, 7: Memorials

Week 10: March 11-15
   Spring Break - No Classes

Week 11: March
   Tues, 19: Nabokov, Speak, Memory
Thurs, 21: Nabokov, *Speak. Memory*

**Week 12: March**
- Tues, 26: Nabokov, *Speak, Memory*  
- Thurs, 28: Nabokov, *Speak, Memory*

**Week 13: April**
- Tues, 2: *Blowup*
- Tues, 4: *Blowup*

**Week 14: April**
- Tues, 9: *Time Regained*
- Thurs, 11: *Time Regained*

**Week 15: April**
- Reading TBA

**Week 16: April 26-30**
- Final projects are due

You will have a final exam during exam week.