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ENG 5006-001: Graduate Seminar on W.B. Yeats

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English 5006-001
Graduate Seminar on W. B. Yeats
Tuesday 3:30-6:00 CH337
Dr. Susan Bazargan
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Office Hours: TTh: 2-3:30 Th: 11-12:30 and by appointment
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Required texts:
The Collected Poems of W.B. Yeats, ed. Richard Finneran
Eleven Plays of W.B. Yeats, ed. A. Norman Jeffares
Various books on reserve (check syllabus)

Course requirements:
A. Participation: You have signed up to attend a graduate seminar, which requires members to be present at all sessions. Although I will lecture part of the time, I expect you to be an active participant in the discussions. Ask questions of your peers; respond to their inquiries, share your insights! If you are not capable of being a seminar participant, there is no point in being here. You are here to learn about one of the most fascinating poets of the twentieth century. His poetry is difficult, and I'll expect lots of questions. Your peers are newcomers to the course also, so don't feel intimidated by them. Remember that the "best" courses you'll take in graduate school are the ones in which you did your best. i.e., tried your hardest. I'm available to talk to you during my office hours or any other convenient time. If you're terribly ill or have to take care of an emergency and can't be in class that day, please LET me know. Call my office or home and talk to me! You can have only ONE unexcused absence during the semester. Your grade will suffer if you have more than one unexcused absence.

B: Papers. You'll write two research papers during the semester, one short (5 pages); one long (10 pages or more). You'll also have a comprehensive final take-home exam. You'll be responsible for at least one oral presentation and one brief "report." This brief report (1-2 typed pages, single-spaced if needed) has to be shared with your peers, so bring enough copies for everyone. The oral presentation will be on a number of poems or a play, which you will "teach" to the class. You peers will evaluate your oral presentation. Towards the end of the semester, you will present an abstract of your final paper and a bibliography. Make enough copies of these two items for the class.

C: Grading policy: Participation: 20%; Papers: short 15%; long: 30%; Final: 35%
Meetings:

1/14/97: Introduction to the course. Film: The Great Irish Famine

1/21: Crossways (Poems, 7-26)
Student report: "Yeats and the Irish Literary Revival"
Student report: "Yeats and Maud Gonne"

1/28: The Rose and The Wind Among the Reeds (Poems, 31-74)
Student report: "Who is Cuchulain?"
Outside reading: "A General Introduction for my Work" (on reserve)

2/4: The Green Helmet and Other Poems; Responsibilities (Poems, 87-128)
Student report: "A brief sketch of the Abbey Theatre"
Student report: "Yeats and Lady Gregory"
Outside reading: Synge, The Playboy of the Western World (on reserve). You can also check out the video of the play and watch it in the library.

2/11: The Wild Swans at Coole and Michael Robartes and the Dancer (Poems, 131-190)
Student report: "What happened on Easter, 1916 in Dublin?" (You may want to watch the film Michael Collins.)
Student report: "A brief introduction to A Vision"
Outside reading: A Vision, pp. 3-25, and from Book I: The Great Wheel, pp.67-89

2/18: The Tower (Poems, 193-230)
Student report: "The Irish Civil War"
FIRST PAPER IS DUE
(Optional: On February 23 (Sunday at 3:00), let's plan on going to the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana to watch Brian Friel's play Translations. Friel is perhaps the most important dramatist of contemporary Ireland. Let me know if you're interested. I'll place on reserve a copy of the play.)

2/25: Introduction to Eleven Plays of W.B. Yeats; On Baile's Strand; Deirdre; The Player Queen
Student report and Outside Reading: "From The Autobiography of William Butler Yeats: 'Reveries'" (on reserve)

3/4: The Only Jealously of Emer, The Resurrection, The Words Upon the Window-Pane
Student report and Outside Reading: "From The Autobiography: "The Trembling of the Veil, Four Years: 1887-1891"
3/11: *The Full Moon in March, The Herne's Egg, Purgatory*  
Student Report and Outside Reading: "From the *Autobiography: Ireland After Parnell*" and *Hodos Chameliontos*

**SPRING BREAK**

3/25: *The Death of Cuchulain, Cathleen Ni Hoolihan*  
Outside Reading: "From the *Autobiography: The Tragic Generation*"

4/1: *The Winding Stair and Other Poems (Poems, 232-276)*  
Outside Reading: "From the *Autobiography: The Stirring of the Bones and Dramatis Personae*"

4/8: *New Poems (Poems, 293-322)*  
Outside Reading: *Dramatis Personae* (continued)

4/15: *Last Poems (Poems, 325-348)*

4/22: Revision and Presentation of Paper abstracts and bibliography

4/29: Revision and Presentation of Paper abstracts and bibliography

Exam week:  
May 5: SECOND PAPER (10 pages) is due  
To be assigned: date of the take-home final exam