

English 123
Fall 2013
MW 10-11:50am
Rolfe 3126

Professor Grossman
Office 268 Humanities
Office Hours MW 12-1 by appt
jhg@ucla.edu

Theories of History, Time-telling, and Narrative

This course concerns the study of 19th & 20th literature in relation to the ways in which people have conceptualized history and told time. If in other courses we often productively situate literature in its historical contexts, in this course history itself becomes our historical context. If in many stories, time is often that through which plots unfold, some of the strange stories we will attend to here are explicitly about clocks and time.

TEXTS

Theoretical Works

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
Georg Lukács, *The Historical Novel*
Frederic Jameson, *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*
Lee Edelman, *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive*
Valerie Traub, "The New Unhistoricism in Queer Studies," *PMLA*

All theoretical readings will be available as pdfs on our coursepage. You must print out the reading and bring it to class.

Literary Texts

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) isbn 9780141439600
Jules Verne, *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1872) isbn 9780140449068
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (1928) isbn 9780156701600
Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* (1993) isbn 9780571169344

We will use the specific editions of the literary texts listed above. We need to share the same pagination. Books may be ordered using the ISBN number.

REQUIREMENTS

Four 1-page (12pt, 350 word max) responses to literary theoretical texts, 40%
graded A/B/C/F
Anderson, due 10/14
Lukács, due 10/23
Jameson, due 11/18
Edelman/Traub, due 11/27

4-page close-reading of Dickens or Verne, due 11/6 30%
4-page close-reading of Woolf or Stoppard, due 12/4 30%

Class participation & reading assessment may raise/lower final grade 1/3 or more.
In addition:

- You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss your writing in individual conferences.

- Lively class participation is expected. More than two unexcused absences will certainly lower your final grade, and two such absences within the first two weeks will result in a failing grade for the course.
- You must use your email account. Please have a current address in MyUCLA.
- Important course information appears in our course page.
- Grades will appear in MyUCLA, but read the above carefully for the actual calculation of final grades.

A word about academic integrity. Academic integrity is fundamental to University work and life. Always note your sources and do not hesitate to ask me about the correct ways of citing outside sources. Plagiarizing, which means taking words or ideas from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgment, is wrong and violates your UCLA Student Conduct Code.

SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

This class is not a survey of historiography. Our abbreviated trajectory is: nations and history; historical novels; public transportation systems and international time; time in relation to the postmodern individual; reproductive and queer history/time.

| | | |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 9/30 | Introduction: History and time as problems, the opening of T2C | |
| 10/2 | Multiploated novels, Dickens (to p.53, Book One) | |
| 10/7 | Anderson, "Cultural Roots;" Dickens, Book Two | |
| 10/9 | Anderson, "Cultural Roots;" Dickens, Book Two | |
| 10/14 | Dickens; serialization, Book Two | Anderson response |
| 10/16 | Lukács, <i>The Historical Novel</i> ; Dickens, Book Three | |
| 10/21 | Lukács, <i>The Historical Novel</i> ; Dickens, Book Three | |
| 10/23 | Lukács, <i>The Historical Novel</i> ; Dickens, Book Three | Lukács response |
| 10/28 | Dickens | |
| 10/30 | Dickens | |
| 11/4 | Verne | |
| 11/6 | Verne | First essay due |
| 11/11 | [Veterans Day] | |
| 11/13 | Frederic Jameson, "The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism" | |
| 11/18 | Lee Edelman, "The Future is Kid Stuff;" Woolf | Jameson response |
| 11/20 | Woolf | |
| 11/25 | Traub, "The New Unhistoricisim in Queer Studies;" Woolf | |
| 11/27 | Woolf | Edelman/Traub response |
| 12/2 | Stoppard | |
| 12/4 | Stoppard | Second essay due |