**Modern Love**

Winter 2012

University of Oregon

Robert Clark Honors College

Prof. Sandler

Office: 101H Chapman Hall

Hours: 10-11 a.m., MWF, and by appointment

msandler@uoregon.edu

The title of this course is taken from a column in the New York Times that publishes personal essays by a new author each week. The phrase suggests that love somehow moves with history. The premise of this course will be that literature has played a central role in the redefinition of love, that one of its central aims has been to constantly renovate ideas and performances of love. We’ll discuss ideas and ideals of romance, seduction, sentiment, beauty, commitment, and abandon. We’ll begin with a discussion of courtly love, and move quickly into the modern period. How do features of modern life such as the city, mass culture, globalization, professionalization, and psychotherapy, effect the shape and experience of love? How have the ideals of love changed by being opened up to a wide array of social outcasts?

**Attendance and Participation:**

If you miss more than three classes, your grade will go down one notch (from A to A- or a B+ to a B). Missing class will definitely effect your grades on written assignments as well. Please do come see me if you need any kind of clarification.

**Grade Breakdown:**

You are responsible for knowing the material we discuss in class and the books I assign you to read, your grades on quizzes and writing assignments will reflect these expectations. The specific breakdown is as follows:

2 2-3 page close reading assignments (30%)

1 final paper proposal (10%)

1 4-6 page final paper (30%)

6 short quizzes (20%)

participation (10%)

**Assigned Texts** (please buy the editions available at the Duck Store):

Shakespeare, *The Sonnets* (Pelican)

Goethe, *Sorrows of Young Werther* (Penguin)

Charles Baudelaire, *Les fleurs du mal* (David Godine)

Nella Larsen, *Passing* (Penguin)

Adolpho Bioy Casares, *The Invention of Morel* (NYRB)

Patti Smith, *Just Kids* (Ecco)

\*you will also need to set up a free account on nytimes.com so you can read the “Modern Love” column.

**Schedule:**

M jan. 9th: Introduction

W jan. 11th: Discuss “Modern Love” columns; OED definition of “modern” and “love”

F jan. 13th: Shakespeare’s *Sonnets,* 1-18

M jan. 16th: *The Sonnets,* 19-50

W jan. 18th: *The Sonnets,* 51-89

F jan. 20th: *The Sonnets,* 90-119

M jan. 23rd: *The Sonnets,* 120-150 **(quiz)/ 1st Close Reading paper due**

W jan. 25th: Goethe, *Werther*

F jan. 27th: Goethe, *Werther*

M jan. 30th: Goethe, *Werther*

W feb. 1st: Goethe, *Werther*

F feb. 3rd: Goethe, *Werther* **(quiz)**

M feb. 6th: Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil*

W feb. 8th: Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil*

F feb. 10th: Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil*

M feb. 13th: Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil*

W feb. 15th: Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil*

F feb. 17th: Baudelaire, *Flowers of Evil* **(quiz)/ 2nd Close Reading paper due**

M feb. 20th: Nella Larsen, *Passing*

W feb. 22nd: Nella Larsen, *Passing*

F feb. 24th: Nella Larsen, *Passing*

M feb. 27th: Nella Larsen, *Passing* **(quiz)**

W feb. 29th: Adolfo Bioy Casares, *The Invention of Morel*

F mar. 2nd: **Attend Place and Displacement Conference/** [**Email proposals]**

M mar. 5th: Adolfo Bioy Casares, *The Invention of Morel*

W mar. 7th: Adolfo Bioy Casares, *The Invention of Morel* **(quiz)**

F mar. 9th: Patti Smith, *Just Kids*

M mar. 12th: Patti Smith, *Just Kids*

W mar. 14th: Patti Smith, *Just Kids* **(quiz)**

F mar. 16th: **Last Day of Class/** **Final Paper due**