

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY**  
**University Honors Program**  
**One University Drive**  
**Orange, CA 92866**  
**(714) 744-7646**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**HON 322**

**Fall 2011**

**Political Literary Theory and the Modern Novel**

Catalog Description: *Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor.* Novels sometimes explore politics directly (most famously and frighteningly, Orwell's *1984*), but all novels may be read politically and culturally. Through the semester, we'll read novels linked with readings by political and cultural philosophers and analysts. We'll learn to read politically, to unearth a novel's political and cultural assumptions, and we'll become familiar with Marxist, feminist, new-historical, and cultural ways of reading. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits

Essential Equipment and Facilities: Seminar-style classroom with computer equipment.

Course Goals, Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The course will include a good deal of close reading and writing. Students will respond to readings online (via Blackboard discussions) and via short essays, culminating in one longer, researched analysis of a work not represented on the syllabus.

Content: Close reading and discussion of the five novels, informed by readings in politically-oriented critical theory.

Current Required Texts:

Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*  
 Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier*  
 D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*  
 Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*  
 E.M. Forster, *Passage to India*

Readings from Karl Marx, György Lukács, Walter Benjamin, Mikhail Bakhtin, Gayle Rubin, Michel Foucault, and others who have written about politics or about literature from a political or cultural perspective. (These will either be part of a course reader or will be available online.)

Instructional Strategies:

- Comprehensive reading
- Written (via Blackboard) discussion group participation
- Lectures
- Group discussion of ideas
- Written responses to readings
- Student presentations of research

Methods of Evaluation:

Weekly responses to readings online

4 short (4-6 page) essays

1 long (10-12 page) researched essay or a Web-based research project

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:

The course syllabus will include the following statement:

Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university

Students with Disabilities Policy:

The course syllabus will include the following statement:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Prepared by:**

Richard Ruppel, Spring 2009

**Last revised:**

Spring 2011