

Literature & Religion: Literature Beyond Secularism
AFS 389W/ENG 387W/REL 387W

Basic Information:

Tues/Thurs 10-11:15 a.m.

Callaway Center S109

Fall 2015

Class website: <https://emoryliteraturebeyondsecularism.wordpress.com/>

Molly Slavin (Molly)

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Office: Modern Languages 117

Office hours: Mondays 1-2 p.m., Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Course Description:

This course will examine literary texts by Euro-modernist, African, and South Asian writers from the late 19th century to the present in light of recent debates about how to understand the religious and the secular. Come prepared to read a range of genres, from critical theory to poetry, fiction to memoir. Class performance will be evaluated through attendance, reading responses, three formal writing assignments, and two exams.

Justin Neuman writes, in the introduction to his *Fiction Beyond Secularism*, "Nineteenth- and early twentieth century social theorists like Max Weber and Emile Durkheim [pointed out] an effect or symptom of modernization: the 'secularization' thesis. This argument, that modernization entails the privatization and inexorable decline of religion, became a theory integral to the self-understanding of Anglo-European modernity for over a century" (3-4). This class will complicate this easy assumption, beginning by, as Neuman says, "unlearning the habit of conceiving religion and secularity as opposites" (6).

Course Requirements

- Attend class prepared to discuss the readings (this means bring the appropriate text with you)
- Complete reading responses as assigned
- Write three papers (more information forthcoming)
- Write a midterm and a final exam

Grading Breakdown:

10% Attendance and Participation	10% Literary Journal Paper
10% Reading Responses	15% MARBL Paper
15% Midterm Exam	20% Critical Paper
20% Final Exam	

Grading Scale:

A 94-100 B+ 87-89.9 C+ 77-79.9 D+ 67-69.9 F 0-59.9
 A- 90-93.9 B 83-86.9 C 73-76.9 D 63-66.9
 B- 80-82.9 C- 70-72.9 D- 60-62.9

Required Texts (in order of use):

- Course Pack, available at Emory Document Services (DUC)
- James Joyce, *Dubliners* (Norton Critical Edition) ISBN: 9780393978513
- Chinua Achebe, *Arrow of God* (Anchor) ISBN: 978-0385014809
- Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses* (Random House) ISBN: 978-0812976717
- Ian McEwan, *Saturday* (Anchor) ISBN: 978-1400076192
- Amitav Ghosh, *In An Antique Land* (Vintage) ISBN: 978-0679727835

Schedule of Readings:

Thurs, Aug 27	Introductions
<u>Modernism</u>	
Tues, Sept 1	Gerard Manley Hopkins sonnets; Charles Taylor, Intro and Preface to <i>A Secular Age</i> (Course Pack)
Thurs, Sept 3	Yeats and HD poems; Leela Gandhi, "God" (Course Pack)
Tues, Sept 8	James Joyce, "Araby," and Heyward Ehrlich, "'Araby' in Context: The 'Splendid Bazaar,' Irish Orientalism, and James Clarence Mangan" (Norton <i>Dubliners</i>)
Thurs, Sept 10	James Joyce, "The Dead," and Vincent J. Cheng, "Empire and Patriarchy in 'The Dead'" (Norton <i>Dubliners</i>)
<u>Postcolonialism</u>	
Tues, Sept 15	Chinua Achebe, <i>Arrow of God</i> (Chapters 1-6); Saba Mahmood, "Can Secularism Be Other-Wise?" (Course Pack)
Thurs, Sept 17	Chinua Achebe, <i>Arrow of God</i> (Chapters 7-11); Graham Huggan, "Is the 'Post' in 'Postsecular' the 'Post' in 'Postcolonial?'" (Course Pack)
Tues, Sept 22	Chinua Achebe, <i>Arrow of God</i> (Chapters 12-19)
Thurs, Sept 24	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Shivering" (Course Pack)
Tues, Sept 29	Literary Journal Paper Due; Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story" (TED Talk)

The Rushdie Affair

Thurs, Oct 1	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Chapter 1); Gauri Viswanathan, "Secularism in the Framework of Heterodoxy" (Course Pack)
Tues, Oct 6	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Chapter 2); Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History" (Course Pack)
Thurs, Oct 8	Midterm Exam
Tues, Oct 13	Fall Break. No class.
Thurs, Oct 15	MARBL Day (Salman Rushdie Papers)
Tues, Oct 20	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Chapters 3-6); Aamir Mufti, "Reading the Rushdie Affair" (Course Pack)
Thurs, Oct 22	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Chapter 7); Charles Taylor, "The Immanent Frame" (Course Pack)
Tues, Oct 27	Salman Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Chapters 8-9); Christopher Hitchens on <i>The Satanic Verses</i> (YouTube)
Thurs, Oct 29	Class canceled; use this time for research for MARBL paper
Tues, Nov 3	MARBL Paper Due ; Amitav Ghosh, <i>In an Antique Land</i> (Prologue)

History and Memory

Thurs, Nov 5	Amitav Ghosh, <i>In An Antique Land</i> (Lataifa); Edward Said, "Redrawn Frontiers, Redefined Issues, Secularized Religion" (Course Pack)
Tues, Nov 10	Amitav Ghosh, <i>In An Antique Land</i> (Nashawy); Charles Taylor, "The Malaises of Modernity" (Course Pack)
Thurs, Nov 12	Amitav Ghosh, <i>In An Antique Land</i> (Mangalore); Bruce Robbins, "Why I Am Not a Post-Secularist" (Course Pack)
Tues, Nov 17	Amitav Ghosh, <i>In An Antique Land</i> (Going Back and Epilogue); Agha Shahid Ali poems (Course Pack)

Thurs, Nov 19	Ian McEwan, <i>Saturday</i> (Chapter 1); Justin Neuman, Preface and Introduction to <i>Fiction Beyond Secularism</i> (Course Pack)
Tues, Nov 24	Ian McEwan, <i>Saturday</i> (Chapter 2); Justin Neuman, excerpt from "Time and Terror" (Course Pack)
Thurs, Nov 26	Happy Thanksgiving!
Tues, Dec 1	Ian McEwan, <i>Saturday</i> (Chapters 3-4)
Thurs, Dec 3	Ian McEwan, <i>Saturday</i> (Chapter 5); Justin Neuman, "Coda: The Novel And The Secular Imagination" (Course Pack)
Tues, Dec 8	Critical Paper Due; Wrap-Up and Review

Policies

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The success of this course depends significantly on your active participation in class meetings. Come prepared to share your thoughts about the reading. I expect everyone to join in the discussion, and I reserve the right to call on you. While I will do everything I can to make this an enjoyable, open, and safe environment for discussion, the onus is on you to rise to the intellectual challenge of the ideas we discuss. If you find it difficult to speak in a classroom setting, please come see me in private so we can work out a way for you to participate.

I have a zero technology policy in the classroom. The classroom is like an airplane – your phones, computers, tablets, and all other electronic devices must be stashed and stowed away. All readings have been made available for you in hard copy, so there is no reason for you to be reading anything off of a screen.

Your attendance and participation will be graded for each class meeting on a scale of 0-4. To receive 4/4 for a class period, you should arrive prior to the start of class, bring with you the assigned readings, stay alert, take part in the discussion, and refrain from using electronic devices in class. Other ways of participating include actively taking notes, contributing to small-group work, and volunteering to read aloud. You may receive less than full credit if you avoid opportunities to speak in class or cannot demonstrate that you have done the reading. If you arrive late or do not have the assigned readings, you will receive 2/4 (a failing grade) for that day. If you are absent, fall asleep, or use an electronic device in class, you will receive 0/4 for that day. There are no opportunities to make up attendance and participation credit. Since there are 27 eligible class periods, however, you can receive 100% for this portion of the grade if you

attend all but two classes and extra credit if you attend every class. There will also be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester (see class website for more details and instructions).

If you miss a class period, you must speak to a classmate to get the notes for the day before coming to speak to me. I highly recommend coming to talk to me, but please note I will not re-teach a class to you privately. Please get the information necessary before coming to me with any questions.

Papers:

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, in a normal 12-point font (Garamond, Times New Roman, etc: no Courier or Arial), with one-inch margins and page numbers. Please do not put your last name in the header. Utilize MLA citation style for every source that you use, and refer to the MLA Handbook for guidance. Please ask me if you have questions about acceptable sources or appropriate citation.

For each of your three assigned papers, you must email me a digital copy before class and submit an exactly matching hard copy at the start of the class when the paper is due. Failure to do so will result in a reduction in grade (see below). It is your responsibility to allow yourself sufficient time to handle any technological glitches or snags that may come up.

If either your digital or hard copy is submitted late, the paper will be penalized one full letter grade for each twenty-four-hour period, starting immediately after the deadline. You are entitled to take one twenty-four-hour extension during the semester, at your discretion, but you must notify me by email at least twenty-four hours before the original deadline and receive a reply confirming the receipt of your message.

Of course, always feel free to stop by during office hours to discuss your writing and ideas.

Communication Policy:

I will use Emory email to communicate all information about the class that is not conveyed in class. It is your responsibility as an adult and a scholar to read and respond to all emails. On this note, you are expected to check your Emory email at least once every 24 hours. There is no need to respond to class-wide emails, but if the instructor contacts you personally, it is good etiquette to respond within 24 hours (except on weekends).

Academic honesty policy:

Academic honesty and plagiarism are completely unacceptable. I am happy to meet with you individually to discuss this in more detail or if you have specific concerns. For a detailed explanation of Emory's honor code and academic honesty policy, please see: http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policy/honor_code.html

Counseling:

Free and confidential counseling services are available from the Emory Counseling Center (404-727-7450) or <http://studenthealth.emory.edu/cs/index.php>

Disability policy:

If you have a documented disability, Emory's Office of Disability Services promises to be "diligent and intentional in our efforts to ensure access for faculty/staff, students, and visitors" (language from the ODS website). Please familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities in this area and speak with me early in the semester about reasonable accommodation. The website for the Emory Office of Disability Studies is located here:

<http://www.ods.emory.edu/>

Emory Writing Center:

The Emory Writing Center offers 45-minute individual conferences to Emory College and Laney Graduate School students. It is a great place to bring any project – from traditional papers to websites – at any stage in your composing process. Writing Center tutors take a discussion- and workshop-based approach that enables writers of all levels to see their writing with fresh eyes. Tutors can talk with you about your purpose, organization, audience, design choices, or use of sources. They can also work with you on sentence-level concerns (including grammar and word choice), but they will not proofread for you. Instead, they will discuss strategies and resources you can use to become a better editor of your own work. The Writing Center is located in Callaway N-212. Visit <http://www.writingcenter.emory.edu> for more information and to make appointments.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Tutors:

If English is not your first language and if you need additional help with assignments in this or other college classes, you may benefit from working with specially trained ESL Tutors. The tutors are undergraduates who will support the development of your English language skills. Like Writing Center tutors, ESL tutors will not proofread your work. Language is best learned through interactive dialogue, so when you come to an ESL tutoring session, be ready to collaborate! ESL tutors will meet with you in the ESL Lab in Callaway S108 and other designated locations, and they will help you at any stage of the process of developing your essay or presentation. You may bring your work on a laptop or on paper. If you schedule an appointment in the ESL Lab, you may also bring your work on a USB stick – computers are available in the lab.

Visit the website of the Office for Undergraduate Education

(<http://college.emory.edu/oue/>) and select "Student Support" and then "ESL Program" to schedule an appointment, read the tutoring policies, and view the offerings of the ESL Program (direct link to ESL Tutoring:

<http://college.emory.edu/oue/student-support/esl-program/esl-tutoring.html>). If

you do not have a scheduled appointment, you may want to meet with a drop-in tutor in the ESL Lab, Callaway S108. Here, you may have less time with a tutor if other students are waiting, but you can briefly discuss an assignment and some of your concerns. For more information, visit the website or contact Levin Arnsperger at larnspe@emory.edu.