

Prof. Pericles Lewis
English /Literature
W 2:30-4:20 p.m.

Henry James and the Ethics of Storytelling

- Jan. W10 Introduction: James, Storytelling, Ethics
- Unit I—Storytelling**
- W17 Henry James, *The Ambassadors*, books I-VI
Ian Watt, “The First Paragraph of *The Ambassadors*”
Sign up for presentation topics
Students proposing senior seminar essays should meet with me this week
- W24 *The Ambassadors*, books VII-XII
Wayne Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction*, chapters XII and XIII
2-page proposal for senior seminar essays due
- Unit II—Ethics**
- W31 John Stuart Mill, “Utilitarianism”
5-page paper on *The Ambassadors* due (for those not writing senior seminar essays)
- Feb. W7 Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals*
At least one response paper must be handed in by this date
- W14 Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*, books
Annotated bibliography, 5-page prospectus due M12 for seminar essays
- W21 *The Wings of the Dove*, books
- W28 Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (excerpts)
The Wings of the Dove reviewed
Senior seminar essay writers should meet with me again
First draft of seminar essay due Friday, March 2
- Spring break Read *The Varieties of Religious Experience* and *The Golden Bowl*
- Unit III—Varieties of Religious Experience**
- Mar. W21 William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (Lectures I-X)
- W28 *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (Lectures XI-XX)
- Apr. W4 Henry James, *The Golden Bowl*, books
- W11 *The Golden Bowl*, books
Presentation of some seminar essays
- W18 *The Golden Bowl* reviewed
Class party; presentation of remaining seminar essays
- F20, 4:00 p.m. All final papers and seminar essays due

*Course Expectations***Participation and Presentations**

As a seminar, this course depends on the active participation and presentations of individual students. Each student will give one 10-minute presentation during the course of the term. All students should come to class having read the relevant materials and with ideas or questions for discussion. Your class presentation should open up questions for consideration by the whole class. Try to avoid simply reading a paper—you should practice speaking from notes. Try to keep the presentation focused on the text. You may want to highlight specific passages for “close reading” and class discussion.

Response Papers

Students should also submit 2-page papers in response to at least three of the readings (two for senior seminar essay writers). These papers should outline your reaction to the reading for a particular week. They are due in class on the first day that the reading is discussed, and they may form the basis for your class presentations or longer papers. At least one should be written by February 7 and at least one should respond to a text other than a novel.

Attendance at class is mandatory, except in cases of religious observance, serious illness, or family emergency.

Grades

For literature majors and English majors not writing senior seminar essays:

Participation in class, including class presentation	25%
3 short (2-page) response papers, each due the day that the text under consideration is first discussed in class	15%
5-page mid-term paper, due January 31	10%
15-page term paper, due April 20 at 4:00 p.m.	50%

Topics are open; at least one of the papers should make use of texts other than novels. Mid-term and final papers should be on different topics.

For English majors writing senior seminar essays:

Participation in class, including presentation	25%
2 short (2-page) response papers, each due the day that the text under consideration is first discussed in class	10%
Proposal (Jan. 24), Prospectus and Bibliography (due Feb. 14)	10%
Final draft of senior seminar essay (25 pages or longer)	55%

Due Dates

Response papers will only be accepted on the date of the first class discussion of the reading discussed in the paper. Short assignments will not be accepted more than a week after the due date. Final papers/seminar essays are due April 20 at 4:00 p.m. Any papers submitted later than that time may result in an “incomplete” grade for the term. In case of emergencies or unavoidable delays, please consult me no later than 12 noon on **April 19**.

Additional/Recommended Reading

Please consult me for suggestions on additional readings relevant to your essay topics or research interests. All texts are available at the Yale Bookstore.

Office Hours

M2-4 and other times as necessary.

My office is room 105, Connecticut Hall. Telephone 432-4750.

Please do not call my home number (I have a small child whose sleep cannot be interrupted). I check email regularly.

When you would like to speak with me during office hours, please set up an appointment a few days in advance by contacting Mary Jane Stevens, the Registrar of the Literature Major, at 432-4750. This arrangement is necessitated by the fact that I am serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies, so my office hours tend to get booked up in advance. Senior seminar essay writers should meet with me at least twice: once before writing their proposals in the third week of term and once after I've returned their abstracts and bibliographies in mid-February. I look forward to meeting with each of you whenever you have questions or concerns.