

Reading Proust

Syllabus * Summer 2003 * UC Berkeley Extension
Thursday 7:00 – 10:00 * 223 Dwinelle Hall * EDP 025312

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Course Description

"Reading Proust" covers the first and final volumes—Swann's Way and Time Regained—of Proust's seven volume novel, À la recherche du temps perdu. Known traditionally in English as Remembrance of Things Past, the most recent translations render the title more accurately (although perhaps less poetically) as In Search of Lost Time. Although they were published fourteen years apart, most of the last volume was written concurrently with the first. Swann's Way and the volumes that follow contain a narrative designed to demonstrate the theses that are presented in Time Regained. While trying to avoid reductionism, it can not irresponsibly be said that Swann's Way poses all the questions that are later answered in Time Regained. Reading these two volumes is an imperfect but effective solution to the challenge of "reading Proust" in the course of a single term. This course is designed for newcomers to the novel as well as for returning readers.

Course Objectives

This course aims to give an understanding of the following elements of Proust's novel:

- The nature and meaning of involuntary memory.
- The epistemology of jealousy.
- The "truth" of sadism.
- The education of the artist and the choice of subject-matter.
- Proust's poetics: allegory, irony, metaphor, metonymy, and dilation.
- Proust on war and wartime.

Required Books & Materials

Proust, Marcel. Swann's Way. New York: The Modern Library, 1998. Vol. 1 of In Search of Lost Time. 6 vols. 1998-99.

---. Time Regained. New York: The Modern Library, 1999. Vol. 6 of In Search of Lost Time. 6 vols. 1998-99.

- pen or pencil and notebook paper

Recommend Books

Shattuck, Roger. Proust's Way: A Field Guide to In Search of Lost Time. New York: Norton, 2000.

Course Requirements & Grade Distribution

Students taking the course for credit will be required to turn in brief, informal writing assignments on a weekly basis, as well as final paper of 4-6 pages.

Informal writing: 50%

Final paper: 50%

Course Schedule (subject to change)
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SW = Swann's Way **TR** = Time Regained

WEEK	DATE	IN CLASS	READING ASSIGNED
1	6/12	Intro to Course	SW pp. 1-134
2	6/19	Awakenings; Bedtime at Combray; the madeleine; Giotto's "Charity"	SW pp. 134-264
3	6/26	Saturday lunches; Montjouvain; steeples of Martinville	SW pp. 265-502
	7/3	NO CLASS	
4	7/10	CLASS CANCELLED	
5	7/17	Swann's character; the little phrase; the search in the night; lies; the monocles	SW pp. 502-606; TR pp. 1-27
6	7/24	Jealousy; Bois de Boulogne	TR pp. 27-153
7	7/31	The Goncourt Journal; the War	TR pp. 153-281
8	8/7	The brothel; the uneven paving stones; la matinée chez la princesse de Guermantes	TR pp. 281-400
9	8/14	Art; le bal des têtes	TR 400-532
10	8/21	Time	

Course Policies

Second Day Drop: If you do not attend class on the second day of class I will automatically drop you from the class. If for some reason you cannot attend class on the second day, you must tell me by the end of the first class session.

Attendance: Since we will be doing group work on regular basis, your attendance is crucial. Missing more than one class meeting will affect your grade, and missing three or more class meetings is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade in Discussion Group Work.

Lateness: Arriving late disrupts class. Class begins according to the time on the clock on the classroom wall. Three late arrivals will be considered an absence; early departures carry the same consequence. If you will be regularly unable to get from one part of campus to class within the allotted time, please see me before the third week of classes.

Late Essays: All papers must be handed in by the end of class on the day they are due; if you submit your paper via e-mail, it must be time-stamped no later than the time that class ends. If you are unable to turn in or e-mail your paper by the end of class, one "Late Essay" coupon is included in the Course Packet. This is the only way late essays will be accepted. Turn in this coupon or e-mail me a facsimile in lieu of the paper on its due date. Your paper will be due at the next class meeting. I do not accept papers turned into the Department Office or slipped under my office door. As noted above, I do not grade individual formal essay assignments, but a missing paper will be a conspicuous absence when I assess your portfolio at the end of the semester. **IMPORTANT:** If you fail to complete or turn in **any** formal writing assignments you will receive an N/C for the course.

Make-up work following an absence: Each student is responsible for obtaining class notes and assignment details. Informal writing assignments and homework cannot be made up for.

From the Curriculum and Policy Committee: "In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs."

Use of outside assistance/Plagiarism zero-tolerance policy: Copying all, or in part, another's material and presenting it as one's own is a grave matter. It is easy for an instructor to detect bought, "borrowed" or mass-produced papers. Discrepancies in style and mechanics will be revealed in the comparisons between in-class and out-of-class efforts. Additionally, tutors may help with prewriting and assist with basic skills, but should *not* be altering structure, inserting their own ideas or be functioning as proofreaders who correct all grammatical errors.

- EVIDENCE OF PLAGIARISM (or cheating on a test) WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT (or test) AND A GRADE OF 'F' FOR THE COURSE. (See also the SJSU publication. "Academic Dishonesty and Its Consequences.")

Statement of non-bias: It is an instructor's responsibility to teach the material of the course and see to it that students become informed citizens who can think on their own. An instructor's place is not to promote any particular political philosophy or agenda; the University's General Education "Perspectives" requirement states, "All courses shall address issues of race, class, and gender when appropriate. Readings which include perspectives of women and diverse cultural groups shall be incorporated in all courses whenever possible."