ENG 290: Human Values in Literature
Spring 2017
Wednesdays | 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Dr. Mena Mitrano
Email: mmitrano@luc.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description
The subtitle of our course for this semester will be "The Neighbor." We will be reading and discussing some key modern critical and literary texts that raise an urgent concern of our time: that of our bond to others (what we feel we owe, expect, ought to give and to receive). The most exhaustive source in this regard remains the text of the Gospels, and the commandment issued there to "Love Thy Neighbor." We shall start with the religious perspective and look at the ways in which literature and modern critical thought have passionately engaged this theme, using as our searchlights in our inquiry writers and philosophers like Virginia Woolf, Jean-Luc Nancy, Sigmund Freud, Julia Kristeva, and Roberto Esposito. The course has an innovative and experimental strain in that our inquiry will combine philosophical, psychoanalytic and critical reflection, and will understand literature in its broad and ever broadening sense. The readings will be supplemented by visual materials and archival materials that I will make available to the students.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this class, students should be able to:
- Have a clear picture of the current critical debate in the Humanities on the theme of the Neighbor;
- Initiate an individual reflection on the competing meanings of the term "Neighbor";
- Retrace the notion of "Neighbor" in literary texts that may represent it in metaphorical and indirect ways;
- Carry out an individual research project and produce an interesting research paper.

Required Text / Materials
Julia Kristeva, Strangers to ourselves (New York: Columbia UP, 1994)

Selections from Walt Whitman, Willa Cather, Katherine Mansfield, and T. S. Eliot will be posted on Sakai

Attendance Policy
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy:
- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
• For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
• For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one unexcused absence will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade.

**Evaluation**
- Participation 20%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Presentation 20%
- Final Project 40%

**Grading**
94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Late work: minus one grade.

**Academic Honesty**
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism according to the LUC Student Handbook.

**Disabilities**
Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact me the first week of class, as well as the Senior Academic Services Advisor.

**Proposed Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned readings for following class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Week One</td>
<td>Introductory Lecture: The Neighbor</td>
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<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Week Two</td>
<td>The Gospels</td>
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<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Week Three</td>
<td>The Gospels</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Reading 1</td>
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<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Week Four</td>
<td>Freud: <em>Civilization and Its Discontents</em></td>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Week Six</td>
<td>Midterm/Woolf</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Week Seven</td>
<td>Esposito and the impossibility of community</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>Nancy : Corpus</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Week Ten</td>
<td>Nancy : Corpus</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td>Kristeva</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td>Kristeva</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Week Thirteen</td>
<td>Student presentations of project-in progress</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Week Fourteen</td>
<td>Final research project due (6 pp.)</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Week Fifteen</td>
<td>Student symposium</td>
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