Course Description

"Love," like "work," "person," "object" and "subject," is one of the core terms in the shared lexicon of post-enlightenment modernity, a lexicon that is currently undergoing perhaps the most radical redescription and rethinking in history. The primary task of this course is to use some of the classics of Western writing -- from St. Augustine to Roland Barthes -- to introduce our undergraduates at the Loyola Rome Center to this exciting moment of global cultural revision. We will focus on love and explore the idea of love in four of its manifestations: caritas, or love of God and the other, amor understood as form of human and non-human relationality (Dante), eros, or intimacy and sexual love in a scene of Two (Jane Austen), and logos, or intellect and the life of the mind (Joyce and Roland Barthes). Apart from the primary readings, which include St. Augustine, Dante, Jane Austen, James Joyce, and Roland Barthes, in our exploration we will rely on leading thinkers of our time like Graham Harman, Alain Badiou and others. The course is inspired by the idea that literature, a highly permeable form of human creativity, especially in its productive contact with other disciplines, can give us the tools to decode the exigencies of the present and become more knowledgeable about them (and about articulating them) in a spirit of active commitment.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- Read and respond in meaningful ways to major texts of the Anglo-American literary tradition, as well as world classics in translation;
- Improve one's understanding of literature, its transformations over time, and its relevance to our present;
- Identify key concepts and terms and their transformation in cultural and intellectual history;
- Develop oral skills, engaging in discussion and debate and developing one's own position;
- Assess the significance of written texts in relation to the exigencies of our time and with particular attention to an international or global context;
• Complete an individual research project and produce a well-structured, interesting research essay.

Requirements
Prompt class attendance, active participation and commitment to work (doing the readings, taking notes, reflecting, thinking) are essential requirements. There will be a Midterm exam, an oral presentation and a research project. For the research project: MLA Stylesheet; print version; typed; spacing: 1.5. Ideas for topics should arise from discussion and assigned reading.

Required Texts
St. Augustine, Confessions (Penguin Classics)
Dante, Divine Comedy (Oxford World's Classics)
Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice (Oxford World's Classics)
James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (Oxford World's Classics)
Roland Barthes, A Lover’s Discourse (trans. Richard Howard, Hill and Wang)

Other Materials
Gertrude Stein, Four Saints in Three Acts, Performance and Libretto (online)

A packet of critical readings 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. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

• 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 1 unexcused absence will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade.

Assessment Components
• Participation 20%
• Midterm Exam 20%
• Presentation 10%
• Final Research Project 50%
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

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. You are responsible
to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the
instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations
should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Course Schedule

Friday Class Days:
Friday, February 8 – Wednesday schedule
Friday, March 22 – Monday schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned reading and work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Introductory Lecture</td>
<td>St. Augustine, Confessions</td>
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<td>Week Two</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Caritas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Three</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Papal Audience--No class---Make-up work to be assigned</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Amor</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Amor</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Week Seven</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Screening of <em>Four Saints in Three Acts</em></td>
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<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>March 13---Spring Break</td>
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<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Logos/Joyce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Ten</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Logos/Joyce</td>
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<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Literature and love/Barthes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Literature and Love/Barthes</td>
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Week Thirteen
April 17
Love and Literature: Conclusion
Research Paper Due.

April 24: Individual meetings to discuss my evaluation of your research paper.