

Calendar: English 391W / Spring 2013 / Professor Jason Tougaw

Tuesday, January 29

In class: Stream of consciousness experiment

Blog 1: Respond to an online source that explores a question or idea raised during our first meeting. (Be sure to include a link—or, if it's video or an image, to embed it in your post.)

Thursday, January 31

Lodge, *Thinks...* (chapters 1 – 10)

Blog 2: You are another character in the novel, and you've discovered Ralph Messenger's "stream of consciousness" recording. Choose a medium and document your own stream of consciousness in response Ralph's.

Tuesday, February 5

Lodge, *Thinks...* (Chapter 11 – end); *Welcome to Your Brain*, Chapters 1 & 3

Discuss annotated passages

Blog 3: Describe a useful metaphor for consciousness.

Thursday, February 7

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (pp. 196 – 252 in *The Mrs. Dalloway Reader*)

Blog 4: Walking with Clarissa: What does it feel like to be Clarissa in London? Focus on one or more of the five senses.

Due: Annotated passage 1 (literary text, to me and your writing group, via email by midnight)

Tuesday, February 12: No class

Thursday, February 14

Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (pp. 252 – end in *The Mrs. Dalloway Reader*)

Blog 5: Reading Virginia Woolf

Tuesday, February 19

Lehrer, "Virginia Woolf: The Emergent Self"; Zunshine, "Theory of Mind and Representations of Fictional Consciousness"

Due: Annotated passage 2 (critical text, to me and your writing group, via email, by midnight)

Blog 6: Respond to Zunshine or Lehrer (or both). Choose one claim that illuminates the text and one that does not.

McEwan, *Saturday* (pp. 1 – 100)

Blog 7: Compare McEwan's prose to Woolf's.

Tuesday, February 26

McEwan, *Saturday* (p. 100 – end); *Welcome to Your Brain*, Chapter 6

Blog 8: Reflect on something interesting you've learned about human brains. (Include a link to a relevant source online.)

Thursday, February 28

Sigmund Freud, "Irma Dream" (from *The Interpretation of Dreams*)

Blog 9: Recount and analyze a dream of your own (or a fictional one) in the style of Freud. You may also want to include a final paragraph where you respond to Freud. Did his method work for you? What are its strengths and limitations?

Tuesday, March 5

Siri Hustvedt, *The Shaking Woman* (pp. 1 – 125)

Blog 10: Reflect on something you learned from reading Hustvedt's book.

Thursday, March 7

Siri Hustvedt, *The Shaking Woman* (pp. 126 – end)

Blog 11: Recount a neurological experience, using Hustvedt's writing as a model.

Tuesday, March 12

Tougaw, "Brain Memoirs, Neuroscience, and the Self"; Antonio Damasio, *The Feeling of What Happens*, Chapter 1

Blog 12: Write about an "object" (in Damasio's sense of the term) that shapes or changes you.

Thursday, March 14

Antonio Damasio, & *Self Comes to Mind* (chapters 1 – 4)

Blog 13: Damasio's claims: Focus on one you agree with or one you disagree with (or one that confuses you).

Tuesday, March 19

Alva Noë, *Out of Our Heads* (chapters 1 – 4)

Blog 14: Write a dialogue between Damasio and Noë, about one of the books we've read this semester (on any topic they might debate). You might want to make this a discussion of one of the books we've read this semester. Where possible, integrate words from their books into the dialogue you write.

Thursday, March 21

David B, *Epileptic* (pp. TBA)

Writing Groups: Project Proposal Workshop

Blog 15: Consider some ideas for your seminar project. Think about topics that will work well as a traditional essay and that can be adapted to an online format. Do this before class.

Tuesday, March 26, Thursday, March 28, Tuesday, April 2: No class—spring break

Thursday, April 4

David B, *Epileptic* (to end); *Welcome to Your Brain*, Chapters 10 & 12

Blog 16: Respond to an image in David B.'s graphic memoir. (If possible, scan and upload the image.)

Tuesday, April 9

Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (1/2 the group)

Wray, *Lowboy* (1/2 the group)

Blog 17: Project proposal

Evening: Siri Hustvedt reading (6:30 – 8:30 pm)

Thursday, April 11

Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (1/2 the group)

Wray, *Lowboy* (1/2 the group)

Discuss annotated bibliography

Blog 18: How does the author use narration to represent the distinctive point of view of a character with Asberger Syndrom (Haddon) or schizophrenia (Wray)?

Tuesday, April 16

Welcome to Your Brain, Chapters 16 & 19; Vermeule, “The Fictional Among Us”

Writing groups: Annotated bibliography workshop

Blog 19: What is character? What is personality?

Thursday, April 18

No class.

Blog 20: Analysis a passage (critical source)

Tuesday, April 23

Marco Roth, “Rise of the Neuronovel”; *New York Times* Debate: “[Neuro Lit Crit](#)”

Writing groups: Annotated bibliography workshop

Blog 21: Write a letter to the editors of *N+1* or *The New York Times*, in response to one of their articles on the relationship between literature and neuroscience, using texts from your seminar project as evidence.

Thursday, April 25

Hustvedt, *Sorrows of an American* (pp. 1 – 82)

Blog 22: Annotated bibliography

Sunday, April 28

Due: Drafts of seminar essays (to me and to your writing group)

Tuesday, April 30

Writing groups: Draft workshop (using Harvey's "Elements" as a guide)

Blog 23: Reflect on your plans for revision, based on feedback you received on your draft.

Thursday, May 2

Hustvedt, *Sorrows of an American* (pp. 83 – end); Hustvedt, "Three Emotional Stories: Reflections on Memory, The Imagination, Narrative, and the Self"

Blog 24: Compare the role of the brain in Hustvedt's novel to its role in another text (possibly one you're using in your seminar project).

Monday, May 6

Due: Seminar Essays (by midnight)

Tuesday, May 7

No class

Blog 25: Reflect on the strengths and weaknesses seminar essay and your thoughts about adapting it for our web project.

Thursday, May 9

Bauby, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (to end); Parker, "Reading Minds"

Seminar Essays returned

Blog 26: Reflect on the feedback you've received on your final project.

Tuesday, May 14

Bauby, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*; Keen, "A Theory of Narrative Empathy"

Blog 27: To what degree are you able to empathize with Bauby's experience? What details in his book test the limits of your empathy?

Thursday, May 16

Writing groups: Adaptation workshop

Blog 28: Reflect on the semester as a whole—what we've done, what we've learned, what you still want to know, etc.

Tuesday, May 23

Final projects due (by midnight)