

THE *BILDUNGSROMAN* IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Comparative Literature/English UN3934
 Fall 2018
 Mondays 2:10–4:00pm
 Hamilton Hall 511

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 Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00–6:00pm

The *Bildungsroman*, that is, the novel of education or formation, was a dominant genre of nineteenth-century literature. Tracing the lives of characters through familiar coming-of-age plots—growing up, leaving home, and making one’s way in the world—the *Bildungsroman* showcases the novel’s ability to express both individual hopes and social constraints, youthful ideals and mature realizations, “great expectations” and “lost illusions.” In this seminar, we will undertake an in-depth study of several classics of the genre by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Jane Austen, Gustave Flaubert, Thomas Hardy, and Edith Wharton. Along the way we will touch on many of the topics and essential tensions of the *Bildungsroman*: love, desire, and courtship; the family and its substitutes; class, money, and social mobility; the shaping role of gender and the limited social choices afforded to women; and the vocation of art or writing as an alternative to more mainstream careers. We will read a selection of critical materials on the *Bildungsroman*, and on style and genre more broadly. We will also consider accounts of social and moral development as a way to think about the relationship between literature and historical change.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following texts are on order at Book Culture. If buying online, be sure to check the ISBN to ensure the same edition. Other materials will be provided in CourseWorks and/or as handouts.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship* (Princeton, ISBN: 9780691043449)
 Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Oxford, ISBN: 9780199535569)
 Gustave Flaubert, *Sentimental Education* (Penguin, ISBN: 9780140447972)
 Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (Penguin, ISBN: 9780140435382)
 Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (Oxford, ISBN: 9780199538102)

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- weekly attendance and active participation in seminar meetings
- weekly responses (on CourseWorks) of 250+ words, due by 9pm on the Sunday prior to our seminar; no response is required in weeks where papers are due
- 5-7pp. paper, due by 5pm on Friday in Week 7
- 5-7pp. paper, due by 5pm on Friday in Week 12
- take-home final examination

GRADES

- | | |
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| • attendance and participation | 15% |
| • weekly responses | 20% |
| • first paper | 25% |
| • second paper | 25% |
| • final examination | 15% |

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance. Attendance is an essential component of the seminar. Absences (unless excused by an official note from a doctor, academic advisor, or coach) will adversely affect your participation grade. Lateness to seminar will similarly affect your grade. Absences for religious observance are permitted, but please check in with me at the beginning of the semester in this regard. If you are not able to make it to seminar for *any* reason, please email me in advance.

Late Work. Weekly responses will not be counted towards your final grade if late. Papers will be docked a third of a grade (i.e., from A- to B+) for every day they are late beyond the deadline.

Electronics. Laptops and/or tablets are permitted in the classroom only for taking notes or consulting secondary texts. Phones and other electronic devices are not permitted.

Academic Integrity. This course abides by the Honor Code of Columbia College (<http://bulletin.columbia.edu/columbia-college/standards>), with which you should familiarize yourself. Any violation of academic integrity described therein will incur a failing grade for the course and will moreover be reported to the relevant authorities.

Accessibility and Accommodations. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) facilitates equal access for students with disabilities by coordinating reasonable accommodations and support services. In order to secure such accommodations and services, you must first register with the ODS (<https://health.columbia.edu/disability-services>). If you have any concerns about accessibility and/or accommodations, feel free to contact me at any time.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

* = recommended/optional reading

Week 1 | September 4

[No Class: Labor Day]

Week 2 | September 10

Franco Moretti, *The Way of the World* (3-10)

Mikhail Bakhtin, "The *Bildungsroman* and its Significance in the History of Realism" (10-25)

Marianne Hirsch, "The Novel of Formation as Genre" (293-300)

Jeffrey L. Sammons, "The Mystery of the Missing *Bildungsroman*" (229-34, 239-43)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* (1-40)

Week 3 | September 17

Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* (41-198)

*Goethe, "Shakespeare: A Tribute" (872-5)

Week 4 | September 24

Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* (199-216, 256-373) (*Book Six, 217-255)

*Friedrich Schlegel, "On Goethe's *Meister*" (269-86)

Week 5 | October 1

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (1-184)

John Fordyce, *Sermons to Young Women* (excerpts)

Week 6 | October 8

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (185-298)

Raymond Williams, *Keywords* ("Development," "Improve," "Individual," "Society")

Week 7 | October 15

Franco Moretti, *The Way of the World* (15-42, 52-60, 67-74)

*Georg Lukács, *The Theory of the Novel* (132-43)

+ First Paper Due Friday, October 19, at 5pm +

Week 8 | October 22

Gustave Flaubert, *Sentimental Education* (5-262)

Week 9 | October 29

Flaubert, *Sentimental Education* (263-460)

Roland Barthes, "The Reality Effect" (141-8)

Week 10 | November 5

[No Class: Fall Academic Holiday]

Week 11 | November 12

Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (9-196)

Thomas Gray, "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College"
Williams, *Keywords* ("Labour," "Work," "Educated," "Sex")

Week 12 | November 19

Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (199-408)

Eliza Lynn Linton, *The Girl of the Period* (1-9)

[Thanksgiving]

Week 13 | November 26

Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (5-176)

*Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (20-48)

+ Second Paper Due Friday, November 30, at 5pm +

Week 14 | December 3

Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (179-320)

Week 15 | December 10

A. E. Housman, "When I Was One-and-Twenty"

Philip Larkin, "On Being Twenty-Six"

+ Take-Home Final Exam Due Monday, December 17, at 5pm+