ENGL 326
MAJOR BRITISH AND EUROPEAN AUTHORS
3 UNITS
FALL, 2004
T TH 10:00-11:15 (rm. BT 1688)

Dr. Joan K. Peters
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Office Hours: T/Th 11:15-12:15; Th 1-2 and by appointment

Catalogue Description
Three hours lecture/discussion
Concentrated study of selected British and/or European authors. Authors selected change from term to term; therefore, students may take the course for credit more than once.

Course Description: GEORGE ELIOT AND GUSTAVE FLAUBERT
She was meant to marry and mother, he, to be a lawyer. Yet, in 1880, when both George Eliot (the pen name of Mary Anne Evans) and Gustave Flaubert died, the literary community lost the undisputed mistress and master of the realist novel. Where Eliot brought an intellectual rigor and political sensibility to her fiction, Flaubert brought stylistic perfection, “le mot juste,” the exact word to convey every elusive feeling or sense. Through their fiction, we know our counterparts in the 19th century, women and men struggling to define themselves rather than let society define them, to make moral sense of themselves and their world, to experience life’s depths. In this course, we will savor their fiction, explore their lives and historical contexts, and understand their literary legacies. Readings: Flaubert’s *Three Tales*, *Madame Bovary*, and Eliot’s *Middlemarch*.

Expected Student Outcomes:
Students will 1) master a major text of Gustave Flaubert and George Eliot 2) improve interpretative skills through close reading and use of critical essays 3) learn how to use historical and biographical material to illuminate a text 4) build verbal abilities involved in class discussion and presentations 5) build written abilities by doing successive drafts of their term paper 6) enrich their understanding of the importance and influence of Flaubert and Eliot, and the controversies about their work 7) enjoy reading culturally and historically unfamiliar literature.

Required Texts
Gustave Flaubert, *Three Tales*, Oxford World Classics
Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*, Bantam Classic
Disabilities Statement
Students who have disabilities or special needs and require accommodations in order to have equal access to classrooms must register with the designated staff member in Student Affairs in order for us to serve their needs.

Evaluation
Student grades will include plusses or minuses to more carefully reflect performance. Any classes missed beyond two will diminish the grade by ½ point (a plus or minus down) unless I determine that a doctor’s note or a suitable explanation excuses the absence.

Class participation: 35%
This includes class discussion, preparedness, quizzes, short verbal and sometimes written responses to questions about the texts, and class presentations (not to exceed 15 minutes).

Midterm and Final exam: 30%
The exams will ask students to synthesize the ideas learned throughout the class, identify and discuss excerpts from texts, and to draw upon all the texts read.

Papers: 35%
Students will write two short papers on either the suggested topics or topics of their own choosing. The second paper will compare and contrast some aspect of Flaubert and Eliot’s novels.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Aug. 31: Introduction to the period, the authors, and the criticism
2. Sept. 2: “A Simple Heart,” Three Tales
5. Sept 14 Part II, i-viii, 60-106 Zola, 333-340 (class presentation)
7. Sept 21: ix-x, 134-150 Maupassant, 341-344 (class presentation)
10. Sept 30: vi-vii. 240-267
12. Oct 7: midterm
14. Oct 14: 6-12, pps. 53-127
18. Oct 28: 29-33, pps. 297-342
19. Nov 2: REMEMBER TO VOTE Book IV, 34-38, pps. 343-412
23. Nov 16: Book VI, 54-58, pps. 567-635
   Thanksgiving
27. Dec 2: Book VIII, 72-78, pps. 779-830
29. Dec 9: Review