**WL 104W**  
**MODERN WORLD LITERATURE:**  
*Modernity’s Mirror: Self, Society, and the Crisis of the Modern*  

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**FUTURISM**

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Mark Deggan  
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**PHONE:** 778-782-9595  
**OFFICE #:** AQ 5124  

**CLASS LOCATION:** AQ 5007  
**CLASS HOURS:**  
- **LECTURE**  
  - Friday  
  - 12:30 - 2:20 pm
  - **TUTORIAL D101**  
  - AQ 5025  
  - 2:30 - 4:20 pm
  - **TUTORIAL D102**  
  - AQ 5025  
  - 3:30 - 4:20 pm

**PREREQUISITES:** NONE

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

During the global upheavals of the early 20th century, the terms by which we understood human identity were upended along with traditional notions of human consciousness. Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that so many modern literary works focus upon the lone individual struggling against his or her social place. This course explores how literary works interrogated concepts of self & society during that era of turbulent historical, technological, & cultural change.

*We* begin to question the individual self through the “theatrical” dream life of an outsider, Hamlet. By following his story through film & literature, we can better see how solitude becomes a force for change in modernity. Pursued by the spectre of Hamlet’s self-interrogating presence on stage, we turn to August Strindberg’s play on the fault lines of class, feminism, & the lone individual (*Miss Julie* 1888), Lao She’s parable of an innocent young man in a corrupt Chinese society (*Rickshaw Boy* 1937), Jean Rhys’s exploration of a Caribbean woman’s social resistance in London (*Voyage in the Dark* 1934), and Mulk Raj Anand’s portrait of an outcaste youth in pre-independence India (*Untouchable* 1935) We will also watch screen versions of several of these texts in order to explore how the image of the individual carries ethical weight in postmodern culture.

This is an SFU writing course: skills learned throughout the term will help students with written work in all faculties.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

Introductory understanding of World Literature as a field practice  
Basic comprehension of terms and concepts of literary criticism  
Introductory comprehension of *modernism* as a cultural and artistic period  
Starting ability to analyze aesthetic forms in and across different cultural eras & media
Improved university writing ability with a focus on literary criticism

### REQUIRED TEXT(S)/READINGS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
<td><em>Hamlet</em></td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>978-0199535811</td>
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<tr>
<td>August Strindberg</td>
<td><em>Miss Julie &amp; Other Plays</em></td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>978-0199538041</td>
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<td>Lao She</td>
<td><em>Rickshaw Boy</em></td>
<td>Harper</td>
<td>978-0061436925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Rhys</td>
<td><em>Voyage in the Dark</em></td>
<td>Penguin Classics</td>
<td>978-014183954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulk Raj Anand</td>
<td><em>Untouchable</em></td>
<td>Penguin Classic</td>
<td>978-0141393605</td>
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### ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper + Revision</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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