ENGL 337: Study of a Major Author

Virginia Woolf

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T/TH 8:30 – 9:45AM 123 Armstrong Hall

“‘Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semitransparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end. Is it not the task of the novelist to convey this varying, this unknown and uncircumcised spirit, whatever aberration or complexity it may display, with as little mixture of the alien and external as possible?’”

Virginia Woolf, “Modern Fiction” (1925)

Course Description:

This class will explore the fiction, essays, and life writing of Virginia Woolf, one of the most notable and prolific female Modernist authors of the first half of the 20th century. Along the way, we will learn the key characteristics of British Modernism, discover the connection between Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group, and connect Woolf’s work to contemporary philosophical, artistic, and political thought. We will read a wide selection of her work, including essays from The Common Reader, A Room of One’s Own, and Three Guineas; we will also read three of her most critically acclaimed novels: Mrs. Dalloway (1925), To the Lighthouse (1927), and Orlando (1928).