

Proust Interpretations: Reading *In Search of Lost Time*

Humanities 409, French 403, Literature 224

Professor R. Howard Bloch

205 82-90 Wall St.

(203) 432 4912

Professor Pierre Saint-Amand

326 82-90 Wall St.

(203) 432 4997

A close reading (in English) of Marcel Proust's masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time: Swann's Way (Combray and Swann in Love), Within a Budding Grove, Sodom and Gomorrah, Time Regained* considered from biographical, psychological/psychoanalytic, gender, sociological, historical, and philosophical perspectives.

August 30 Introduction

Week 1, *Swann's Way, Combray*

September 4 Volume I, pp. 1-64

September 6 I, pp. 65-139

Adam Watt, *Marcel Proust (Critical Lives)*, to p. 98

Week 2

September 11 I, pp. 139-186

September 13 I, pp. 186-264

Watt, *Proust*, to end.

Week 3, *Swann's Way, Swann in Love*

September 18 I, pp. 265-364

September 20 I, pp. 364-457

Julia Kristeva, *Proust and the Sense of Time**, pp. 3-49

Week 4, *Swann in Love*

September 25 I, pp. 457-543

September 27 "Place Names. The Name," I, pp. 545-606

Julia Kristeva, *Proust and the Sense of Time**, pp. 51-98

Week 5, *Within a Budding Grove*

October 2 Volume II, pp. 1-97

October 4 II, 97-204

Midterm paper due via Canvas, 5:00 p.m., October 5 as a Word document and not PDF.

Week 6, *Within a Budding Grove*

October 9 II, 205-298

October 11 II, 299-420

René Girard, *Deceit, Desire, and the Novel**, Chapt. I, IX

Week 7

October 16 II, pp. 421-563

Gilles Deleuze, *Proust and Signs**, Part I

Week 8

October 23 II, pp. 564-730

October 25 Sodom and Gomorrah, IV, 1-133

Elisabeth Ladenson, *Proust's Lesbianism**, Chapt. I, II, and III

Week 9

October 30 IV, pp. 246-358

November 1 IV, pp. 358-446

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet**, Chapt. I, V

Week 10

November 6 IV, pp. 515-631

November 8 IV, pp. 631-724

Antoine Campagnon, *Proust Between Two Centuries**, Chapt. I, VI

Week 11

November 13 *Time Regained*, Volume VI, pp. 1-104

November 15 VI, pp. 104-207

Roland Barthes, "Longtemps, je me suis couché de bonne heure."*

Week 12

November 27 VI, pp. 207-297

November 29 VI, pp. 297-425

Week 13

December 4 VI, pp. 425-532

December 6 Conclusion

Final Papers due via Canvas, Friday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. as a Word document and not PDF.

Required work: One mid-term paper (1500-2000 words); Final paper (2500-3000 words); one in-class presentation, 15 minutes (explanation of a passage within the context your reading and class discussion) or presentation of an outside book of your choosing; regular class participation.

Primary Text:

Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time*, tr. C. K. Scott Montcrieff and Terence Kilmartin, revised by D. J. Enright, Random House, Modern Library Classic, known as the "Proust Six-Pack," available at Barnes and Noble. N.B., Barnes and Noble will match the Amazon price, so there is no savings from ordering online.

N.B., You must buy the hard copy of the book, in this edition, so that in our discussions we will be on the same page. Nothing could be further from the Proustian imagination than Kindle, so don't even think about it.

Secondary Readings:

Roland Barthes, "Longtemps je me suis couché de bonne heure."*

Antoine Campagnon, *Proust Between Two Centuries**

Gilles Deleuze, *Proust and Signs**

René Girard, *Deceit, Desire, and the Novel**

Elisabeth Ladenson, *Proust's Lesbianism**

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet**

Julia Kristeva, *Proust and the Sense of Time**

Adam Watt, *Marcel Proust* (Critical Lives)

Items posted on Canvas (under Files) marked with *

Trigger Warning

Human life, though not devoid of attractive and inspiring details, brilliant artistic achievement, and useful insights into the human condition, can at times be cruel, unfair, and violent. These qualities are reflected in great and enduring works of literature.

Statement on Academic Conduct

"You must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, ask! Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid and if you are the least bit careful about giving credit where credit is due you should not run into any problems."