

Early Twentieth-Century Fiction  
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Prof. Andrew Goldstone ([andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu](mailto:andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu))  
(Murray 019, Tuesdays 2:30–4:30)

December 6, 2016. Barnes (2).

## the final

- ▶ distributed Saturday, December 17, at 9 a.m., on Sakai
- ▶ due Monday, December 19, at 3 p.m.
- ▶ 3 essay questions, one hour each
  - ▶ 2 cover whole course  
(multiple titles each, some choice)
  - ▶ 1 focuses on Hurston, Barnes, Narayan
  - ▶ the exam is about *interpreting textual evidence*
  - ▶ open books, slides, notes; nothing else
- ▶ honor code
  - ▶ no collaboration
  - ▶ maximum work time is 4.5 hours
- ▶ submit in person in Murray 115, 12 p.m.–3 p.m. 12/19  
or to Sakai (notify me by 12/13)

- ▶ Barnes in literary history: as modernist
  - ▶ difficulty and innovation
  - ▶ an expat writer (like Joyce, Hemingway)
  - ▶ violating rules for plot, sexual decorum...
- ▶ Barnes in literary history: as *late* modernist
  - ▶ difference from earlier generation
  - ▶ no celebration of artistic consciousness
  - ▶ consciousness and interiority relegated

historical lines

## distanced positions

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The louder she cried out the farther away went the floor below, as if Robin and she, in their extremity, were a pair of opera glasses turned to the wrong end, diminishing in their painful love; a speed that ran away with the two ends of the building, stretching her apart. (68)

## unassimilable

Her flesh was the texture of plant life, and beneath it one sensed a frame, broad, porous and sleep-worn, as if sleep were a decay fishing her beneath the visible surface. About her head there was an effulgence as of phosphorus glowing about the circumference of a body of water—as if her life lay through her in ungainly luminous deteriorations—the troubling structure of the born somnambule, who lives in two worlds—meet of child and desperado. (38)

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*catachresis* (misuse)

outsiders all

Nora

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### Robin

Her clothes were of a period he could not quite place. (46)

Sometimes in these moments of insurmountable grief Robin would make some movement...by which Nora was informed that Robin had come from a world to which she would return. (63)

outsiders all (cont.)

Guido (junior)

“People say that he is not sound of mind. What do you say?” (128)

outsiders all (cont.)

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“People say that he is not sound of mind. What do you say?” (128)

Dr. Matthew Mighty O'Connor

“The reason the doctor knows everything is because he's been everywhere at the wrong time and has now become anonymous.” (89)

## outsiders all (cont.)

Guido (junior)

“People say that he is not sound of mind. What do you say?” (128)

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Felix

heavy with impermissible blood (4)

there was no function in the world for which he could be said to be properly garbed (11)

the Jew seems to be everywhere from nowhere (10)

## not derogatory

“Exactly right. With Guido, you are in the presence of the ‘maladjusted.’ Wait! I am not using that word in the derogatory sense at all; in fact my great virtue is that I never use the derogatory in the usual sense.” (124)

## all together?

The more amiable actresses of Prague, Vienna, Hungary, Germany, France and Italy, the acrobats and sword-swallowers, had at one time or another allowed him their dressing rooms....

There was a Princess Nadja, a Baron von Tink, a Principessa Stasera y Stasero, a King Buffo and a Duchess of Broadback: gaudy, cheap cuts from the beast life, immensely capable of that great disquiet called entertainment. (14)

### Discussion

What kind of community is this?

## next time

- ▶ *Malgudi Days*: syllabus gives reading order
- ▶ start looking over the class commonplace book
- ▶ (commonplacing optional)