**Literature of War: World War I and Now**

Class 3: Demise of Optimism; Loss of Certainty

October 23, 2018

**Greetings**

Syllabus for next week: *Exit West, pp. 1-120*

1. **Backtracking and Catching up**
   1. Questions re last week or overall course?
   2. Recommended films?
   3. Poems we didn’t get to: *(Pragmatism; Confusion; Complexity)*

“In the Trenches,” by Richard Aldington (p. 51-2) (see also letter home)

“Exposure,” by Wilfred Owen (p. 55)

“Apologia Pro Poemate Meo,” by Wilfred Owen (p. 81) (see also manuscript)

1. **This Week’s Poems** *(Sadness, Futility, Damage)*

“A Working Party,” by Siegfried Sassoon, (handout)

“The Sendoff,” by Wilfred Owen (p. 44)

“Anthem for Doomed Youth,” by Wilfred Owen, p. 131

“Futility” by Wilfred Owen, p. 54

1. **An important meeting**

*Regeneration: “*Owen meets Sassoon” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuzRR3jVgS0>

BREAK

1. **At Home: Stasis, Impatience, Alienation**

*Testament of Youth,* by Brittain, pp. 414-444

*All Quiet on the Western Front*

“The Death-Bed,” by Siegfried Sassoon, p. 220

1. **America arrives**

Maps and photos at <http://www.susannedumbleton.com>

1. **Other poems (Disillusion, Confusion, Loss, Anger, Bitterness; Hope)**

“Insensibility” by Wilfred Owen (handout)

“*Dulce et Decorum Est*,” by Wilfred Owen, (Reprise) p. 141

“Base Details,” by Siegfried Sassoon, (handout)

“Aftermath,” by Siegfried Sassoon, p. 267

Read by Jeremy Irons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZxYjogqB2E>

1. Standing back: How would you describe what we have learned? What are overriding ideas, concerns, conflicts, drivers?
2. Benjamin Britten *Requiem*