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Office: 208 South Hall x4225
Office Hours: by appointment

2015-4
English 111-A: Literary Responses to War
Cole Library 410

Walt Whitman said of the Civil War that the “real war will never get in the books.” What versions of war, then, do get in books? This course will expose students to different artistic responses to war and the critical skills necessary to analyze them. Course discussions will consider the limitations of representation and documentation as well as the uses and ethics of art. Our foremost concern will not be with “what happened” but with how what happened has been represented – or not represented.

Our discussions of authors’ choices should influence you as a writer. You can learn a lot from other writers, so pay attention to how published authors of many genres craft their ideas. You will be asked to think about not just the content of your written assignments but how best to present your ideas. Mini-lectures and discussions in class will also provide models for literary analysis. You will have choice with your assignments, because it will be up to you as a writer to make judicious choices and to feel ownership over every word you put on the page. This type of writing experience will prepare you for many kinds of academic writing, particularly in the humanities. It will call on you to be critical, creative, and careful about your work. You will also be revising several assignments this block, sometimes completely rethinking your focus: a necessary part of the process for effective academic writing.

Cornell’s First-year Writing courses are intended to result in the learning outcomes listed here: <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/writing-program/overview-goals/learning-goals.shtml>. Familiarize yourself with these outcomes, as you will be setting goals for yourself as a writer based on these expectations. As a class we will be workshopping one another’s papers, so you’ll be getting feedback from me but also from your classmates; responding to classmates’ work will help you become a better writer, because you’ll be analyzing other writers’ choices and brainstorming ways to make the work more effective. Our First-year Writing program also provides you with the opportunity to work closely with our Writing Consultant, Gabriella Torres (gtorres@cornellcollege.edu), and the Center for Teaching and Learning at Cole Library. The W course is an exceptional opportunity to focus on the writing process for an entire block in ways that will benefit you throughout your college career. Please take advantage of this opportunity and make use of all the resources available to you.

Required Texts:

Readings on Moodle (printed copies required for class) (designated by “M”)

Little, Brown Essential Handbook by Jane E. Aaron (8th edition)

Hospital Sketches by Louisa May Alcott (Bedford edition with Introduction by A. Fahs)

The Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers

Schedule: Class will meet according to the schedule below, but this schedule is subject to change.

Readings should be completed *before* the times at which they are listed to be discussed. Pay close attention to deadlines and due dates and make note of any changes throughout the block.

WEEK ONE

M 11/23

9:00 Course introduction

1:00 McLoughlin (M)

T 11/24

9:00 O'Brien and Thomas (M)

1:00 "Practical Advice" and "MEAL Plan" (M)

Due in class (paper copy): Paragraph assignment

W 11/25

Due by 9 a.m. to Moodle: Writer's Survey with revised Paragraph Assignment

Th 11/26 & F 11/27

Thanksgiving – no class

WEEK TWO

M 11/30

12:00 Alcott, chs. 1-6

T 12/1

Paper conferences

Due at your conference (paper copy): draft of first paper

W 12/2

Paper conferences

12:00 Fahs, Introduction to Alcott and *They Say/I Say* (M)

Th 12/3

9:00 Workshop

Due in class (paper copy): revision of first paper

1:00 Whitman (M)

F 12/4

Due by 10 a.m. to Moodle: First Paper

Reading day: scholarly articles

WEEK THREE

M 12/7

12:00: **Due** in class (paper copy): Scholarly Article Assignment

T 12/8

Due by 9:00 a.m.: Revision of Scholarly Article Assignment

1:00 Powers, pages TBA (M)

W 12/9 *Meet in Cole 212*

12:00 Powers, pages TBA and Research Paper Handout (M)

Th 12/10

Conferences

F 12/11
9:00 Powers, pages TBA and Editing Quiz
Research Meetings

Due Sunday by 5:00 p.m. to Moodle: workshop drafts

WEEK FOUR

M 12/14
9:00 & 1:00: Workshops

T 12/15
9:00 & 1:00: Workshops
Due by 4:00 to Moodle: copies of endnotes you wrote for your group (all as one document)

W 12/16
Conferences

Th 12/17
Conferences

F 12/18
Due by 11:00 a.m. to Moodle: Final research papers and cover sheets

Grading:

Participation	10%
Writer's Survey/paragraph	8%
Paper 1	15%
Article assignment	15%
Editing quiz	12%
Workshop/End notes	10%
Research paper and Annotated Bibliography	30%

Assignments:

Specific guidelines for assignments will be posted on Moodle. We will discuss them in class, and you are encouraged to ask questions. I expect you to read written instructions carefully and to reread them during the process of working on the assignment. You should consult the rubric on Moodle for more information about how I will be evaluating your work. Please note that some assignments require cover sheets and will not be graded without them.

Meeting deadlines is an essential professional skill. Except in case of emergency, I will not accept late work. Each student has one "grace period" during the block – meaning, you may turn in one assignment up to 12 hours late without penalty. No late work will be accepted outside of this "grace period" policy, so use it wisely. This policy does not apply to drafts, which must be turned in on time and brought to classes and meetings as required.

Course Policies:

Preparation, Participation, Professionalism: This class requires faithful attendance, attention, and participation from all of its members. The more you contribute and listen to one another, the more you will learn. Effective participation requires thoughtful preparation: you should be reading and re-reading carefully, taking notes in the margins of your readings and in a notebook, and formulating ideas and questions about the readings before you come to class for discussion. You should *never* turn in a “first draft” for any assignment (graded or ungraded), so leave yourself plenty of time to work on your writing assignments. Including time in and out of class, you should plan to devote at least 40 hours a week to this course. Please speak with me during office hours if you are having any trouble preparing for discussion or participating in class.

Turn off and put away all devices before class begins. Make sure your cell phones are turned off and that you eliminate any other distractions that may detract from the class atmosphere. Laptops, kindles, ipads, etc., are not permitted in class unless you have a documented learning disability that requires you to use them.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate, to make up assigned work, and to turn in anything that was due that day. Being late to class or not being prepared and engaged may all constitute absences; students falling asleep in class will be asked to leave. You are allowed one absence, for any reason, during the block. Missing two classes will result in a lowered participation grade, regardless of class performance. Missing more than two classes will result in failure of the course. If an illness causes you to fall behind, be in touch with me so we can determine whether you will be able to catch up or whether you will need to take a health withdrawal. Fifteen-day Drops and Health Withdrawals will only be granted according to College policy; if you are considering a drop, please make sure you are familiar with the relevant policies.

Email Etiquette and Keeping in Touch: Email is an official mode of communication at Cornell; you are expected to check your email at least once a day and to be attentive to any email about our course. In addition, I expect your emails to me to reflect conventions of academic writing. Your email should include a greeting, a signature, and should use appropriate diction, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

Not responding promptly to emails that require a response or missing scheduled appointments with me, Writing Consultants, or librarians will affect your grade. If you are having any problems with the course, I encourage you to come talk to me.

Learning Disabilities: Cornell College is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all students. If you have a documented learning disability and will need any accommodation in this course, you must request the accommodation(s) from me no later than the third day of the term. Additional information about the policies and procedures for accommodation of learning disabilities is available at: http://cornellcollege.edu/academic_affairs/disabilities/.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is the act of taking the work of another and presenting it as one's own without acknowledgement of the original source. This course assumes utmost academic honesty; plagiarism will not be tolerated. Acts of plagiarism will be reported to the College. If you have any questions about your use of others' work this term, see me about citation guidelines and proper use of sources. Our librarians and Writing Consultants are also wonderful resources for questions about the use of sources. Additional information about academic honesty is available at: <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/student-affairs/compass/academic-policies.shtml#f>.