ENGL 102-A02

Instructor: Sydora

May 15, 2019

**In-Class Essay: Short Response Paper**

**Essay Date**: Friday, May 17 from 9:00-10:30am

**Grade Percentage:** 20%

This essay assignment is designed to help develop your critical and analytical thinking and writing skills within a literary context. A **response paper** allows you to respond to a text by evaluating and analyzing observations about its textual details. As you work to generate your own ideas, you must investigate a topic, provide and evaluate textual evidence through **close reading**, and establish a position or argument in a concise manner.

This is a formal academic essay; therefore, you **must** develop an introduction with a thesis statement, substantiated body paragraphs with both topic and connecting sentences, as well as a conclusion. Your essay should **include**:

* an explicit thesis statement that conveys a persuasive critical argument
* unified and coherent body paragraphs structured to develop and support your proposed argument
* clear and logical transitions between introduction, body, and conclusion
* examples from the text that you explain and connect to your argument (**in-text citations**)
* formal prose (avoid personal pronouns and use of the first person – i.e., “I”)

Choose **ONE** of the following topics on F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short story “Winter Dreams”:

1. Examine how Fitzgerald develops **setting** in order to reinforce social values regarding class in the short story. Which classes are represented and how are they represented? You may want to consider issues such as class difference, class struggle, or class mobility.
2. Discuss the **theme** of illusion versus realism in the short story. What role does this tension play in relation to character motivation, conflict and action, or setting? Make sure to focus on a specific aspect of the theme.
3. Consider the **motif** of the American Dream in the short story. How is the American Dream symbolized? What effect does it produce on the theme or mood of the story? You may want to consider elements such as figurative language, theme, tone, etc.

**Instructions:**

For this essay, you may bring in **ONE** sheet of paper (size 8.5 x 11 in) with your own notes. You can choose not to bring in notes, although I do not advise this option unless you have an identic memory!

You will not be allowed to bring in your text, “Winter Dreams,” for this in-class essay, so I advise that you choose and take note of your in-text examples and citations in advance of the essay. If you do create a note sheet, you will be required to turn in your sheet with your essay at the end of class on Friday.

Your sheet must adhere to the following standards:

* Notes must be handwritten, **not typed.**
* You may write on both sides of the sheet, but you cannot attach additional sheets, sticky notes, etc. Anything you write must fit on a single, double-sided sheet of paper.
* You can write whatever you’d like on your sheet, but it must be your own work!

**Citation:**

This is not a research essay, which means that you are **NOT** required to complete any outside research. I simply want to see you engage closely with the text to produce your **own** argument. However, if you do seek out any outside sources, you absolutely must cite them on your sheet. And remember, you mustinclude MLA formatted **in-text citations** in your essay.

**Things to Bring to Class on Friday:**

* Pen (not pencil, if possible)
* Your single sheet of note paper
* And yourself!