

# English 181: Writing About Literature

Fall 2004  
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104  
Office Hrs: M-Th 2:30-3:30

## **Objectives:** *To improve abilities in*

- Understanding literature
- Written expression
- Group discussion
- One-on-one peer editing

## **Methods:**

- 6 formal out-of-class paper, 3-4 pgs
- 1 research project, 7-10 pgs
- impromptu Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- group work, peer editing
- individual conferences

## **Class General Guidelines**

1. You need to be in class every day. Each absence will result in one point off the final grade per absence. After the first five absences, each additional absence will result in two points off the final grade per absence. You may miss two classes without penalty, if you wish. They could be used for illness or whatever you believe important.
2. The Mid Term and Final Essay Exams, covering readings and discussion, will consist of short in-class essays, graded for writing ability and content. The Mid Term will cover the first half of class; the Final, the second half. The Final will be your opportunity to see improvement in your writing and your analytical ability.
3. The 6 papers should be 750 words in length (3 pg minimum.). Workshop Day will precede the due date for each paper; complete rough drafts will be due

**(Over)**

then. Papers will relate to readings from the text. They are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade per day, beginning at the time due; this includes late complete rough drafts for Workshop Day. After the first paper is returned, make an appointment with me so we can see what you need to work on most. The HONOR CODE is always in effect.

4. Homework may consist of paragraphs, readings, corrections of papers, and unannounced quizzes (brief and factual). Since they are usually related to the work we do in class on a particular day, they cannot be made up if you miss class or are late. However, homework may be turned in early. If you are late, be aware that you may miss a quiz entirely. I will drop the lowest one or two quiz grades.
5. For the research paper (7-8 pages) the grade earned will include work on topic selection, thesis, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. A sheet of requirements will be distributed. This should be an exciting project for you.
6. Class participation includes attendance, attention in class, discussion and, for those who wish, participation in the LearnLink conference for this class.
7. No plus (+) or minus (-) will be recorded with your final grade.
8. Keep your syllabus handy and follow it. If there are any changes to it, the changes will be to your advantages and announced in class and on the LL conference. The syllabus will be posted on our LL conference.

## **Grading Policy**

Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%,  
Homework & Quizzes 10%, Class Participation 10%