

COURSE OUTLINE

**English 181 - Writing About Literature**

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Fall 2003 Semester

**I. Objectives of the Course**

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (3-5 printed pages), and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To organize and develop ideas through the use of specific information.
- B. To construct outlines illustrating that sufficient material has been gathered and organized according to the laws of unity, emphasis and coherence.
- C. To demonstrate orally and in writing a command of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
- D. To write college-level essays which show a mastery of the fundamentals of effective expository and argumentative writing.
- E. To demonstrate a command of library research skills and proper research paper format.
- F. To define the essential characteristics of each of the major literary genres: poetry, short story, novel, and play.
- G. To analyze and explicate a literary text.
- H. To define the larger structures of the works to be read during the course, the various problems these works present, the literary-historical background against which they appear, and the styles in which they are written.

**II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course**

- A. Brief unannounced quizzes which will be factual in nature. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Possible exercises in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. There are no make-ups for missed exercises.
- C. Several in-class writing assignments, tests, and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.

- D. Six formal critical essays (3-5 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.

## **II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course (continued)**

- E. A research paper (8-10 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a research paper is late.
- F. A final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- G. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

## **III. Grading Practices**

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes, exercises and in-class writing	10%
Six essays	50%
Research paper	15%
Final examination	20%

NOTE: My grading system is A, B, C, D, F. No plus (+) or minus (-) on the final grade.

## **IV. Attendance Policy**

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After two (2) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

## **V. Textbook: Thinking and Writing About Literature, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ed. Michael Meyer**

## **VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered**

August 27-28	Fiction & Writing About Fiction
September 2-5	Fiction <b>Paragraph Due</b>
September 8-12	Poetry & Writing About Poetry

**1<sup>st</sup> Essay Due**

September 15-19                      Poetry

**VI.     Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered** (continued)

September 22-26                      Drama  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Essay Due**

September 29-October 3              Drama

October 6-10                              Fiction  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Essay Due**

October 13-17                              Fall Break & Ecuador trip

October 20-24                              Poetry

October 27-31                              The Research Paper  
**4<sup>th</sup> Essay Due**

November 3-7                                Drama

November 10-14                              Drama  
**5<sup>th</sup> Essay Due**

November 17-21                              Poetry  
**6<sup>th</sup> Essay Due** (in-class)

November 24-25                              Poetry  
**Research Paper Due**

November 26-28                              Thanksgiving Recess

December 1-5                                Poetry

December 8                                    Last Class

December 12, **2-5 pm**                      **Final Examination**

**VII.     Office Hours**

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

Monday - Friday - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

### **VIII. Honor Code**

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what **plagiarism** is.