

## English 185: Critical Reading & Writing

Spring 2011  
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104  
Hrs: M-F 3-4pm & by app't

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

- Reading and understanding literary texts
- Written expression
- Group discussion
- Research techniques
- One-on-one and group peer editing

**Methods to achieve Objectives:**

- 5 papers, 3 pages each
- 1 reflective essay on the topic "My Writing"
- 1 research project, 6-7 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- writing workshop days
- individual conferences with the instructor
- participation in the Learnlink Conference

**Texts:**

- *Perrine's Literature, 10<sup>th</sup> ed.* and *Practical English Handbook*

### Class General Guidelines

1. Attendance: You will want to be in class every day, prepared to contribute your insights, to ask questions, to listen to others. We will learn from each other through open discussion, so it is really impossible to "make up" a missed class. Each absence will result in 1 point off the final grade. After the first 5 absences, each additional absence means 2 points off the final grade. But you may miss 2 classes without penalty--to be used for illness, family matters, or whatever is important. There are no excused absences beyond these 2. If you are late more than 3 times, each additional tardy will be half a point off your final grade. These policies are based on an understanding that 1) participants may have to be absent or late sometimes, and 2) no group or class works well without rules and responsibilities for attendance.

2. The Mid Term and Final Essay Exams, covering readings and discussion, will consist of 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 analytical ability.

3. The 5 papers should be about 700-750 words in length (3 pages.). For the first papers, a Workshop Day will precede the due date; complete rough drafts will be due then. Late papers will lose one letter grade per day, beginning at the time due. After the first paper is returned, you should make an appointment with me to look at the revisions you've made and discuss what you need to work on. Keep clean (not graded or marked) copies of all of your papers for a **Portfolio**, which will be provided. This Portfolio, with the reflective essay, will be submitted at the end of the semester.

4. The **HONOR CODE** is in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every Oxford class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. You must submit your own work, not another's, and if you use material other than your own (from the internet, books, etc.) that material must be acknowledged with citations.

5. I suggest you read each story twice (they aren't long) and every poem several times. You will find you understand better what is really going on, enjoy the reading more and feel more confident about expressing your interpretations. Homework assignments, corrections of papers, and unannounced, brief reading quizzes are related to the work we do in class on a particular day; they cannot be made up if you miss class or are late. I will drop the lowest two quiz grades.

6. For the research paper (6-7 pages) the grade earned will include work on topic selection, paragraphs, thesis, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. Specific requirements will be distributed. You will have a range of possibilities for this paper; it should be an exciting project for you.

7. Class participation includes attendance, active listening, discussion and, if you wish, participation in the LearnLink conference. Also, I am available for lunch conversation about any topic you wish in the cafeteria, with you or with you and one or two others from the class.

8. Grading Policy: Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%, Homework & Quizzes 10%, Class Participation 10% (Keep track of your own grades so you will know how you are doing. I do not average grades until after the final exam.)

9. Keep your syllabus handy and follow it. The syllabus will be posted on our LL conference. Changes will be announced in class and on the LL conference.

10. Learnlink Conference: "Lemons 185" (either 10:40 or 12:50 depending on you're your class time), under Class Conferences, English. Check this conference every time there is a red flag. It is an important way for us to communicate about assignments, etc.

11. College students and teachers are expected to behave in a professional manner—meeting deadlines and following the guidelines, being prepared, cooperating with classmates, and generally taking the initiative to contribute positively. The class will be more fun, more interesting, and more useful to your education the closer we come to this standa

## Schedule of Assignments

### English 185: Writing About Literature. Spring 2010 Dr. Lemons

Dates indicate when assignments are *due*. Authors' names, titles, and "Poetry" all refer to *Perrine's Literature*; page numbers are given. PEH stands for *Practical English Handbook*. There will probably be changes in the syllabus (this almost always happens). Changes will be announced in class and on the class conference.

**Note:** Read the introductory material for each new section of stories: the first one, right before the first reading (Tobias Wolff's story), is "Reading The Story," p. 61.

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| <p>Jan 19 Wolff "Hunters in the Snow" 86<br/> Jan 21 Greene 111 &amp; PEH Chapt. 43,<br/> "Writing About Literature", pp 324-341<br/> Jan 24 Munro 125<br/> Jan 26 Workshop: <i>Draft Due</i>.<br/> &amp; Writing About Fiction, 3-17 in <i>Perrine</i><br/> Jan 28 Walker 166, and <i>Paper 1 Due</i>, 4 pm<br/> at my office<br/> Jan 31 Mansfield 175; Wright 179<br/> Feb 2 Welty 223<br/> Feb 4 Jackson 261<br/> Feb 7 Workshop: Complete Draft Due<br/> Feb 8 <i>Paper 2 Due</i>, 4 pm at my office<br/> Feb 9 Hawthorne 309<br/> Feb 11 Marquez 327<br/> Feb 14 Camus 356<br/> Feb 16 O Connor "Everything that. . ." 434<br/> Feb 18 Workshop: Complete Draft Due<br/> Feb 21 Joyce "Eveline" 408<br/> &amp; Paper 3 Due, 4 pm at my office.<br/> Feb 23 Achebe 509; Chopin 524<br/> Feb 25 Melville 586 (30 pages long)<br/> Feb 28 Mid Term Exam<br/> Mar 2 <i>Thesis, Parag. for Resear. Pap. Due</i><br/> Mar 4 Library Day<br/> Mar 14 Poetry 633-638<br/> Mar 16 Workshop: Complete Draft Due<br/> Mar 18 Poetry 638-644<br/> &amp; paper 4 due at my office<br/> Mar 21 Poetry 645-649 &amp; Rev. Thesis,<br/> Outline, and First Parag. Due<br/> Mar 23 2<sup>nd</sup> Library Day<br/> Mar 25 Poetry 655-664<br/> Mar 28 Poetry 644-679<br/> Mar 30 Poetry 689-697</p> | <p>Apr 1 Poetry 697-699 and paper # 4 due, at<br/> my office<br/> Apr 4 Poetry Presentations<br/> Apr 6 Poetry Presentations<br/> Apr 8 Poetry Presentations<br/> *Apr Research Paper Workshop—draft due<br/> Apr 11 Poetry Presentations<br/> Apr 13 Glaspel "Trifles" 1029<br/> *Apr 14 (a Thursday) <i>Research Paper &amp;</i><br/> <i>Project Due</i>, 4 pm, at my office<br/> Apr 15 Ives "Time Flies" 1071<br/> Apr 18 Miller <u>Death of a Salesman</u> 1449<br/> Apr 20 Albee "Sandbox" 1064<br/> Apr 22 Williams <u>Glass Menagerie</u><br/> (complete play due today)<br/> Apr 25 <u>Glass Menagerie</u> (cont.)<br/> Apr 27 catch-up day and Paper # 5 due<br/> 4 pm at my office<br/> Final Exams:<br/> April 29, 2-5 pm (11:45 Class)<br/> May 4, 2-5pm (9:35 Class)</p> |
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