

ENGLISH 181: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

Dr. Christine Loflin

Office: Language Arts 106B

Phone: 4-4682

Learnlink e-mail: Christine Loflin

Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00 , Tuesday 1-2 and by appointment

Course objectives: This course will teach you how to analyze works of literature from a variety of cultures and historical periods. Your work will include class participation, in-class exercises and quizzes, five essays, a research paper, and a final examination. You will be graded on your ability:

- to write persuasive, clearly-organized essays which demonstrate your mastery of effective argument and your thorough understanding of sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary
- to conduct library research and write a formal research paper in the proper format
- to analyze and explicate literary texts, in both written and oral presentations
- to identify and analyze major literary genres and literary styles
- to identify the biographical, geographical, historical and literary contexts for the works we will read in this course, and to compare and contrast differences between these texts.

Course Requirements:

1) Write five critical essays. On the class meeting **before** writing workshop days, you must bring to class **two copies** of a **complete** draft of your essay. I will not accept outlines or incomplete drafts of your essay. On writing workshop days, you should also be prepared to present a brief oral report on your essay.

2) Write a formal research paper.

3) Participate fully in all classroom work.

4) Complete all other class assignments, including written exercises and quizzes.

There will be no makeups for missed classes.

5) Complete the final examination.

Required:

The Bedford Introduction to Literature. 5th edition

Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God

portfolio folder to hold all of your drafts and papers

Recommended:

The Bedford Handbook

Dictionary (strongly recommended: American Heritage)

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for

good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Tardiness: I expect you to be on time for every class.

Classroom Demeanor: No eating, sleeping or private conversations. I expect you to show respect to me and to your fellow students. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave.

Class Participation: This will count for 15% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 94-97 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Essays	50%
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	15%
Final Exam	15%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 34 of the Oxford College catalog.

Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:

August 28	Introduction and Objectives
August 30	Fiction and Writing About Fiction Reading: Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown" 310 Alice Munro "An Ounce of Cure" 434 Writing About Fiction 40-59
September 2	Labor Day
Sept 4	Reading: "Eveline" 512. Drafts of Essay #1 due in class
Sept 6	Writing Workshop

Sept 9	Essay #1 due. Reading: Poetry's Appeal to the Senses 752-757; be ready to discuss "Poem" 753 "Root Cellar" 756 "Blackberry Eating" 832
Sept 11	Figures of Speech 775-779 and "a woman is not a potted plant" 700 "The Flea" 1090 "The Emperor of Ice-Cream" (1184)
Sept 13	"Writing About Poetry" 710-716 "We Real Cool" 743 "The Double-Play" (1187)
Sept 16	Sonnets 888-891, Sestina 896-898
Sept 18	"Diction" 717-722 "Dulce et Decorum Est" 763 Draft of Essay 2 due in class
Sept 20	Writing Workshop
Sept 23	Essay #2 due. Reading: <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> .
Sept 25-Oct 9	<u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>
Oct 11	Topics and Sources due for Research paper
Oct 14	Fall Break
Oct 16	Drafts of Essay #3 due
Oct 18	Writing Workshop
Oct 21	Essay #3 due.
Oct 23-Oct 30	Drama: <u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u>
Nov 1-Nov 4	<u>The Glass Menagerie</u>
Nov 6	Workshop
Nov 8-25	The Research Paper. We will work on using sources, outlines, revision during this time. Essay #4 due Nov 12
Nov 15-Nov 20	Writing In Other Disciplines
Nov 20	Outline/partial draft of research paper due.
Nov 25	Workshop on Research paper
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 2 -6	Southern Literature
Dec 4	Research paper due
Dec 9	Essay #5 due/Southern Literature
Dec 9	Review