

English 181: Writing About Literature
Dr. Gretchen Schulz

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Fall 2000
English 181 08A
and 11A

Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. 3rd ed. Ed. Kirszner and Mandell
The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 5th ed. Diana Hacker
Julius Caesar. Shakespeare. Signet edition.
a good dictionary

Aug. 30 introduction to course; introduction to poetry
Sept. 01 poetry

04 Labor Day
06 preparation for essay
08 draft due

11 poetry essay due (10%); poetry
13 poetry
15 poetry

18 preparation for essay
20 draft due
22 poetry essay due (10%); introduction to drama

25 Much Ado About Nothing
27 Much Ado About Nothing
29 Much Ado About Nothing

Oct. 02 Much Ado About Nothing
04 Much Ado About Nothing
06 Much Ado About Nothing

09 drama essay due (15%); introduction to research paper
11 introduction to fiction; tentative r.p. topics due
13 fiction

16 Fall Break
18 library visit (for r.p.)
20 fiction; final r.p. topics due

23 fiction
25 fiction; bibliography for r.p. due
27 fiction

30 fiction; tentative thesis statement and topic outline for r.p. due
Nov. 01 fiction
03 fiction essay due (15%)

Nov. 06 fiction; revised thesis statement and sentence outline for r.p. due
08 fiction
10 fiction

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13 poetry
15 poetry NOTE: conferences for r.p. all week; drafts due
17 poetry

20 poetry
21 research paper due (20%)

THANKSGIVING

27 Julius Caesar
29 Julius Caesar
Dec. 01 Julius Caesar

04 Julius Caesar
06 poetry
08 poetry

11 poetry; drama essay due (15%); last day of class

Final Exams (10%):

For 08A: Monday, Dec. 18, 2:00-5:00
for 11A: Friday, Dec. 15, 2:00-5:00
for 11J: Thursday, Dec. 14, 2:00-5:00

Course Requirements:

The successful completion of English 181 will require the following of each student enrolled in the course:

1. close reading of the literary texts assigned
2. exercises on these texts
3. discussion of these texts, in class and on-line
4. discussion of ways to write about these texts
5. preparation of five critical essays on these texts
6. preparation of a substantive research paper (as the culmination of a full-fledged research process)
7. taking of a final exam applying and demonstrating the critical techniques and writing skills developed during the semester

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, the successful student should have developed his or her ability to read closely and analytically, to think critically and creatively, and to write persuasively, selecting, organizing, and presenting evidence sufficient to support meaningful theses in clear, correct, and effective prose, acknowledging any sources used with appropriate documentation. Class discussion will develop each student's ability to articulate his or her views aloud, as well.

Policy on Attendance:

You may have two absences with no penalty (though you will be considered responsible for work done or due in class on any day you miss for any reason and responsible for informing yourself about any assignments or

announcements made on days which you miss). Absences three and four will count 1 point each off of your final grade in the course. Absences five and six will count 2 points each off. Further absences will count 3 1/3 points each off.

Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse an absence (and note that students should inform me of the latter ahead of time).

Students who come to class late (after I have taken attendance) are responsible for asking me to correct the attendance record right after class. That record will not be adjusted at a later date. Frequent tardiness will result in a penalty (more points taken from the final grade).

Policy on Late or Missing Work:

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse a late essay or research paper. Work whose lateness is unexcused will lose one letter grade for each calendar day it is late. After four days, unexcused late work will not be accepted at all and will receive a zero.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse a missing draft (and/or other required preliminary material for an essay or research paper). Should a draft (and/or other required preliminary material) not be ready for class discussion and/or discussion in conference on the day it is due, the paper will be penalized a letter grade (or a portion of a letter grade) when it is handed in.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse late or missing homework assignments or in-class quizzes or exercises. If the lateness of such work is not excused, it may not be submitted at all and will receive a zero.

Determination of Final Grade:

first poetry essay.....	10%
second poetry essay.....	10%
first drama essay.....	15%
fiction essay.....	15%
research paper.....	20%
second drama essay.....	15%
final exam.....	10%

The final 5% of your grade will reflect the frequency and quality of your contribution to in-class discussion and on-line discussion of class-related topics.

I will be grading the work you submit to me-- and assigning your final grade in the course-- using the plus/minus grading system.

The Honor Code will apply to every assignment in this class. Your name on each assignment will constitute acknowledgement that you have done that assignment in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code.