

English 185: Critical Reading & Writing

Fall 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
- Oral expression
- Research techniques

Methods to achieve Objectives:

- 5 papers, 3 pages each
- 1 research project, 6-7 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- writing workshops; one-on-one and group peer editing
- individual conferences with the instructor
- participation in the Class Blog

Texts:

- *Perrine's Literature* (11th ed). and *Practical English Handbook*

Class General Guidelines

1. Class Expectations: Be in class every day, prepared to contribute, to ask questions, to listen to others. We will learn from each other through open discussion, so it is 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 is 2 points off. 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 students may have to be absent sometimes and that no group or class works well without rules and responsibilities for attendance. A note on illness: I do not accept doctor's notes as excuses. If you are ill more than 3 days you should contact Dr. Martucci, Director of Academic Services, so she can alert all your teachers. You will not need a laptop or other devices in this class, so keep them off and in your bag.

2. The Mid Term and Final Essay Exams, covering readings and discussion, will be 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 for you and me to see improvement in your writing.

3. The 5 papers should be about 700-750 words in length (3 pages.), although the first paper may be as short as two pages so that you will get used to the format. 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, make an appointment with me to look at the revisions you've made and discuss what you need to work on.

4. The **HONOR CODE** is in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every 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're short) 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 yourself. Assignments, corrections of papers, and 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 will include work on topic, thesis, paragraphs, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. Specific requirements will be distributed. Your paper should be an interesting, even exciting, project for you.

7. Class participation includes attendance, active listening, discussion and participation on the Class Blog. 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.

9. The Class Blog is found on the Blackboard site (on the Oxford website or at www.classes.emory.edu). On the site you will see Announcements and Syllabus as well. Be sure to visit the Announcements for important reminders or changes from me. The Blog is found under Blog Tool. You must make 3 "entries" and 3 "comments" in the first half of the semester and 3 of each in the second half of the semester. Entries are 2/3 developed paragraphs expressing your view, understanding or evaluation of the texts or what was said about them in class. Comments may be shorter and they are comments on other students' entries. You may say whatever you like; they aren't graded for content or grammar, etc., but they do count as part of the Participation grade. Have fun with them.

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 the Class Blog. Changes will be announced in class and on the Blog. Check it often.

10. 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 you the closer we come to this standard.

Schedule of Assignments

English 185: Critical Reading and Writing: Fall 2011

Dates indicate when assignments are *due*. Authors' names, titles, and "Poetry" all refer to *Perrine's Literature*. PEH stands for *Practical English Handbook*. There are may be changes in the syllabus. They will be announced in class and on the Blog.

***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. 61-67. The others are marked in the syllabus below.

Aug 24 Introduction	Oct 21 Library Day
Aug 26 Connell & "Reading the Story," p 61*	Oct 24 Poetry p. 657-665
Aug 29 Wolff & PEH Chapter 43	Oct 26 Poetry p. 666-677, Outline of Research Paper Due
Aug 31 "Plot & Structure" (104), Greene	Oct 28 Poetry, cont.
Sept 2 Munro	Oct 31 Poetry, cont
Sept 7 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Nov 2 Poetry, cont
Sept 9 Lahiri; Paper 1 due at 4 pm	Nov 4 Poetry, cont. Paper #5 due at 4 pm
Sept 12 "Characterization" 161 Walker	Nov 7 No class
Sept 14 Mansfield	Nov 9 Library Day
Sept 16 Baldwin	Nov 11 Poetry, presentations
Sept 19 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Nov 14 Poetry, presentations
Sept 21 "Theme," (208) & Welty: Paper 2 due at 4 pm	Nov 16 Poetry , presentations
Sept 23 "Point of View," 253 & Cather	Nov 18 Poetry, presentations (Draft of Research Paper Due)
Sept 26 Jackson	Nov 21 Trifles
Sept 28 "Symbol," (300) & Lawrence	Nov 23 Research Paper Due
Sept 30 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Nov 25 Thanksgiving break
Oct 3 No class	Nov 28 Time Flies
Oct 5 Hawthorne; Paper 3 due at 4 pm	Nov 30 Glass Menagerie
Oct 7 Marquez	Dec 2 Glass Menagerie
Oct 10 Fall Break	Dec 5 Catch Up Day, Paper #6 Due at 4 pm
Oct 12 Camus	Dec 7 Reading Day
Oct 14 Chopin: Thesis and paragraph of Research Paper due	Dec 8 9-12 noon Final Exam
Oct 17 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	
Oct 19 Updike; Paper #4 Due at 4 pm	