

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

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Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. 7th ed. Ed. Kirsznner and Mandell

The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 7th ed. Diana Hacker

The Tempest. William Shakespeare. Signet edition preferred

Frankenstein. Mary Shelley. Any edition should do.

a good dictionary

Aug. 27 introduction to the course; introduction to fiction

Sept. 01 paragraphs due; fiction

03 fiction

08 draft materials due; writing workshop

10 draft materials due; writing workshop

11 first fiction essay due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

15 fiction

17 fiction

22 introduction to poetry

24 poetry

25 second fiction essay due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

29 poetry

Oct. 01 poetry

06 poetry

08 no class

09 poetry essay due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

FALL BREAK

15 introduction to the research paper; Our Town

20 topics for the research paper due; Our Town

22 Library Visit for the research paper (individual appointments to be arranged)

[attendance at the Oxford production of Our Town required; October 22, 23, 24]

27 final choice of topic for the research paper due; poetry or fiction

29 bibliography for the research paper due; poetry or fiction

30 essay on Our Town due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (10% or 15%)

- Nov. 03 poetry or fiction
 05 poetry or fiction
 06 notes for the research paper to be completed by today
- 09 thesis and topic outline for the research paper due at my office by 4:30 p.m.
 10 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 12 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 13 thesis and sentence outline for the research paper due at my office by 4:30 p.m.
- 16 essay on A Midsummer Night's Dream due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (10% or 15%)
- [conferences for the research paper through the 20th; draft material due]
- 17 The Tempest
 19 The Tempest
- [attendance at the OESA production of The Tempest required November 19, 20, 21]
- 24 The Tempest; research paper due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (20%)

THANKSGIVING

- Dec. 01 Frankenstein
 03 Frankenstein
- 08 last day of class; preparation for final exam
- 09 Reading Day; Frankenstein essay due at my office by 4:30 p. m. (15%)
- 10 Thursday: final exam for 11J, 9:00 to 12:00 (10%)
 16 Wednesday: final exam for 10J, 2:00 to 5:00 (10%)

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
4. discussion of ways to write about these texts
5. preparation of six 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 skills deemed particularly important in liberal arts education, namely 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. All of these skills should prove enormously useful in the rest of the student's academic endeavors and in his or her career, and all of them should enrich the student's life immeasurably, too.

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). Further absences, if unexcused, will involve a penalty. Absence three will count 1 1/2 points off of your final grade in the course. Absence four will count 2 1/2 points off. Absence five will count 4 points off. Further absences will count 5 points off each.

Failure to attend any required out-of-class event (like the OESA production of The Tempest) will also count as an absence from class. And students who have missed such an event will have to do some make-up work or suffer the penalty of deduction from their final grade.

Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse any 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 late out-of-class work. 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 when 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 missing in-class work such as quizzes or exercises. If the missing work is not excused, it may not be made up and will receive a zero.

Determination of Final Grade:

first fiction essay	10%
second fiction essay	10%
poetry essay	10%
<u>Our Town</u> essay	10% or 15%
<u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u> essay	10% or 15%
research paper	20%
Frankenstein essay	15%
final exam	10%

The frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussion will also impact your final grade. Frequent quality contribution will add up to 2 points to your average in the course. Inadequate contribution may result in the deduction of up to 2 points from that average.

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:

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.