English 181:09A: Writing About Literature

Fall 2009 Office: Few 104
Dr. Lemons Office Hours: M-F 3-4pm & by app't

Objectives: To improve abilities in

- Understanding literary texts
- Written expression
- Group discussion
- One-on-one & group peer editing

Methods:

- class discussion
- 5 papers, 3-4 pgs
- 1 research project, 7-10 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class presentations
- group work, peer editing
- individual conferences

Texts:

- Perrine's Literature
- Practical English Handbook
- Our Town

Class General Guidelines

- 1. We will strive for class sessions that are lively, engaging, fun, creative, and informative. Ultimately you will be the one making a difference in the class--and in your own education. Students are expected to act in a professional way, preparing assignments ahead of time, meeting deadlines, co-operating with classmates, and generally contributing in a positive way to the class. Tips: Read every assignment twice. Read introductory material to assignments in the texts.
- 2. You need to be in class every day. Each absence results in one point off the final grade. After five absences, each additional absence will result in two points off the final grade. <u>However</u>, you may miss <u>two</u> classes without penalty, if you wish and you don't have to tell me ahead of time. (No doctor's or other notes are acceptable.) These two absences could be used for illness, family matters, or whatever you believe important. Hey, your life outside of class is important.
- 3. If you are late more than 3 times, each additional one will count 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, in addition that 2) no group or class works well without rules and responsibilities.
- 4. The Mid Term and Final Essay Exams, covering readings and discussion, will consist of short 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 your analytical ability, and it counts more.

- 5. The 5 papers should be at least 750 words in length (3 pages.). For most papers, a Workshop Day will precede the due date; <u>complete rough drafts</u> 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 most.
- 6. The **HONOR CODE** is always in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every Oxford class. Plagiarism is a serious offense according to the Code.
- 7. For the research paper (7-8 pages) the grade earned will include work on topic selection, paragraphs, thesis, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. A sheet of requirements will be distributed. You will have a range of possibilities for this paper; it should be an exciting project for you.
- 8. The class participation grade includes attendance, active listening, discussion and, for those who wish, participation in the LearnLink conference.
- 9. The Grading policy is based on the + system. Keep your syllabus handy and follow it. Any changes will be announced in class and on the LL conference. The syllabus will be posted on our LL conference.

Other Important Notes:

- Learnlink Conference: "181 Lemons" --find it under Oxford College, then Class Conferences, then English. Add the class conference to your desktop. Read this conference regularly--and contribute to it too!
- Texts: <u>Perrine's Literature</u>, <u>The Practical English Handbook</u>, & <u>Our Town</u>. You must have these texts in class when we discuss them.
- Grading Policy: Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%, Quizzes 10%, Class Participation 10% (Keep track of your own grades so you will know how you are doing. I don't average grades until after the final.)