

## English 181 Spring: Writing About Literature

Spring 2009  
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104  
Office Hours: M/T/Th/F 3-4pm & by app't

**Objectives:** *To improve abilities in*

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

**Methods:**

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

**Texts:**

- *Perrine's Literature*
- *Practical English Handbook*

### Class General Guidelines

1. You need to be in class every day. Each absence will result in one point off the final grade per absence. After the first five absences, each additional absence will result in two points off the final grade per absence. However, you may miss two classes without penalty, if you wish and you don't have to tell me ahead of time. These two absences could be used for illness, family matters, or whatever you believe important. There are no excused absences beyond these two. 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 1) participants may have to be absent or late sometimes, and 2) no group or class works well without rules and responsibilities.

2. 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.

3. The 5 papers should be about 750 words in length (3 pages.). For most 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 most.

4. 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.

5. Homework may consist of paragraphs, corrections of papers, and unannounced quizzes (brief, factual, easy). Since they 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. If you are late, be aware that you may miss a quiz entirely. I will drop the lowest one or two quiz grades.

6. 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.

7. Class participation includes attendance, active listening, discussion and, for those who wish, participation in the LearnLink conference.

8. The Grading policy is based on the + - system.

9. 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.

- Learnlink Conference: “181 Lemons” under Class Conferences, English. Add the class conference to your desktop so you will always see when there is a message.
- Texts: Perrine’s Literature, The Practical English Handbook, & Writing About Literature.
- 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.)

## Schedule of Assignments

### English 181: Spring 09 Dr. Lemons

Dates indicate when assignments are *due*. Authors names, titles, and “Poetry” all refer to *Perrine’s Literature*. There will probably be changes in the syllabus (this almost always happens). These changes will be announced in class and on the class conference.

Jan 14 Introduction. How do we write about literature?  
Jan 16 Connell

**Note:** Read the introductory material for each new section of stories: this one, right before the Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> reading (Richard Connell’s story), is called “Reading The Story,” and it begins on p. 61.

Jan 19 No Class (MLK Day)  
Jan 21 Perrine 1. 7-15, Wolff, Greene  
Jan 23 Gardner Chapt 4,  
Jan 26 Workshop: *Complete Draft Due*. Writing About Fiction, 3-17 in *Perrine*.  
Jan 28 Munro, *Paper 1 Due*  
Jan 30 Walker 166, Mansfield 175  
Feb 2 Hood 179 Welty  
Feb 4 Welty 212, Jackson 251  
Feb 6 Jackson 251, Hemingway  
Feb 7 Lawrence 285  
Feb 9 Workshop: *Complete Draft Due*  
Feb 10 *Paper 2 Due* (a Tuesday), 4 pm at my office  
Feb 11 Lawrence 285  
Feb 13 Marquez 327  
Feb 16 O Connor 339  
Feb 18 Workshop  
Feb 19 Paper 3 Due (a Thursday) 4 pm at my office.  
Feb 20 Allen 348  
Feb 23 Camus 358  
Feb 25 Mid Term Exam  
Feb 27 O. Henry 395  
Mar 2 Joyce 442 *Thesis & Parag. for Research Project Due*  
Mar 4 Library Day  
Mar 6 Achebe 511  
Mar 7-14 Spring Break  
Mar 16 Melville 579  
Mar 18 Rev. Thesis, Outline, and First Parag. Due  
Mar 20 2<sup>nd</sup> Library Day  
Mar 23 Updike 619  
Mar 25 Workshop  
Mar 26 (a Thursday) Paper # 4 due at my office  
Mar 27 Poetry 647-661

Mar 30 Poetry 656-661  
Apr 1 Poetry 668-677  
Apr 3 Poetry 677-680  
Apr 6 Poetry 686-692  
Apr 8 Research Paper Workshop—draft due  
Apr 10 Poetry (cont)  
Apr 13 Poetry (cont)  
Apr 14 (a Tuesday) *Research Paper & Project Due*, 4 pm, at my office  
Apr 15 Glaspel “Trifles” 1033-1044  
Apr 17 Oates “The Interview”  
Apr 20 Albee “Sandbox” 1145-1151; Ives “Time Flies”  
Apr 22 Williams Glass Menagerie (complete play)  
Apr 24 cont. Williams Glass Menagerie  
Apr 27 Catch Up Day or workshop  
Apr 28 (a Tues) Paper # 5 due at my office  
Apr 29 Reading Day—no classes  
May 5 Final Exam 9-12 noon