English 181 - Writing About Literature

Dr. Lucas Carpenter Fall 2000 Semester

I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (3-5 printed pages), and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To organize and develop ideas through the use of specific information.
- B. To construct outlines illustrating that sufficient material has been gathered and organized according to the laws of unity, emphasis and coherence.
- C. To demonstrate orally and in writing a command of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
- D. To write college-level essays which show a mastery of the fundamentals of effective expository and argumentative writing.
- E. To demonstrate a command of library research skills and proper research paper format.
- F. To define the essential characteristics of each of the major literary genres: poetry, short story, novel, and play.
- G. To analyze and explicate a literary text.
- H. To define the larger structures of the works to be read during the course, the various problems these works present, the literary-historical background against which they appear, and the styles in which they are written.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief unannounced quizzes which will be factual in nature. There are no makeups for missed quizzes.
- B. Possible exercises in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. There are no make-ups for missed exercises.
- C. Several in-class writing assignments, tests, and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- D. Six formal critical essays (3-5 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.

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1

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course (continued)

- E. A research paper (8-10 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a research paper is late.
- F. A final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- G. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

III. Grading Practices

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes, exercises and in-class writing	10%
Six essays	50%
Research paper	15%
Final examination	20%

NOTE: My grading system is A, B, C, D, F. No plus (+) or minus (-) on the final grade.

IV. Attendance Policy

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After two (2) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume <u>personal responsibility</u> to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

V. Textbook

Step by Step: Writing About Literature, by Pat McKeague, 6th edition

Stories of the Modern South, ed. Ben Forkner & Patrick Samway

<u>The Made Thing: An Anthology of Contemporary Southern Poetry</u>, ed. Leon Stokesbury

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

August 30-September 1

Fiction & Writing About Fiction

September 4-8

Fiction

Paragraph Due

September 11-15

Poetry & Writing About Poetry

1st Essay Due

September 18-22

Poetry

September 25-29

Fiction

2nd Essay Due

October 2-6

Poetry

October 9-13

Fiction

3rd Essay Due

October 16-17

Mid-Term Break

October 18-20

Fiction

October 23-27

Poetry

4th Essay Due

October 30-November 3

The Research Paper

November 6-10

Fiction

5th Essay Due

November 13-17

Fiction

November 20-21

Poetry

6th Essay Due (in-class)

November 22-24

Thanksgiving Recess

November 27-December 1

Poetry

Research Paper Due

December 4-8

Poetry

December 11-12

Last Class

December 14-15, 18-20

Final Examinations

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room l05, and my office hours are the following:

Monday - Friday - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

VIII. Honor Code

I $\underline{\text{assume}}$ that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what $\underline{\text{plagiarism}}$ is.