

COURSE OUTLINE

English 181 - Writing About Literature

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Fall 2004 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 make-ups 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.

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	15%
Six essays	50%
Research paper	15%
Final examination	15%

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 personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

V. Textbook: Thinking and Writing About Literature, 2nd edition, ed. Michael Meyer

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

August 25-27	Fiction & Writing About Fiction
August 30-September 3	Fiction Paragraph Due
September 6-10	Poetry & Writing About Poetry 1st Essay Due
September 13-17	Poetry
September 20-24	Drama 2nd Essay Due
September 27-October 1	Drama

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered (continued)

October 4-8	Fiction 3rd Essay Due
October 11-15	Fall Break & Research trip
October 18-22	Poetry
October 25-29	The Research Paper 4th Essay Due
November 1-5	Drama
November 8-12	Drama 5th Essay Due
November 15-19	Poetry 6th Essay Due (in-class)
November 22-23	Poetry Research Paper Due
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Recess
November 29-December 3	Poetry
December 6	Last Class
December 14, 9 am-12noon	FINAL EXAMINATION

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room I05, and my office hours are the following:

Monday - Friday - 2:00 - 3:00 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 assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what plagiarism is.