

## ENGLISH 181.1J: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

Dr. Christine Loflin

Office: Humanities 204

Phone: 4-4682

Learnlink e-mail: Christine Loflin

Office Hours: WF 10-11:30, T Th 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Course objectives: This course will teach you how to analyze works of literature from a variety of historical periods. Your work will include class participation, in-class exercises and quizzes, three essays, six response papers, a research paper, and a final examination.

You will be graded on your ability:

- to write persuasive, clearly-organized essays which demonstrate your mastery of effective argument and your thorough understanding of sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary

- to conduct library research and write a research paper which shows a command of research skills, argumentative writing and proper research format

- to analyze and explicate literary texts, in both written and oral presentations

- to identify and analyze major literary genres and literary styles

- to identify the biographical, geographical, historical and literary contexts for the works we will read in this course, and to compare and contrast differences between these texts.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Write two critical essays, 3-5 pages long. You will need to bring a complete draft of your essay for each writing workshop day. I will not accept outlines or incomplete drafts of your essay. On writing workshop days, you should also be prepared to present a brief oral report on your essay.

- 2) Write six short (1-2 page) response papers.

- 2) Write a formal research paper, 6-10 pages long.

- 3) Participate fully in all classroom work.

- 4) Complete all other class assignments, including written exercises and quizzes.

There will be no makeups for missed classes.

- 5) Complete the final examination.

Required:

Hemingway In Our Time

Lahiri Interpreter of Maladies

Shakespeare A Midsummer Night's Dream

Milosz A Book of Luminous Things

Rushdie Haroun and the Sea of Stories

portfolio folder to hold all of your drafts and papers

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or

announcements, and for material covered during that class. You have a maximum of four absences, excused or unexcused. You will lose 1/3 of a letter grade for any absence after the fourth; a 3.3 becomes a 3.0.

**Classroom Demeanor:** No eating, sleeping or private conversations. I expect you to show respect to me and to your fellow students. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave.

**Class Participation:** This will count for 20% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion. Quizzes, in-class assignments, learnlink conference contributions and short writing assignments will all be part of your participation grade.

**Plagiarism:** In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in the MLA Handbook and *The Bedford Handbook*, both available in the library. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 103-106 of the Oxford College catalog.

Final Grade breakdown (I use the +/- scale):

Essays	20%
Response papers:	25%
Midterm	10%
Research Paper	15%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	10%

### **Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:**

Jan 15	Introduction and Objectives; Storytelling
Jan 20	Fiction and writing about fiction: <b>letter or diary entry due</b>
Jan 22-29	Rushdie <u>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</u>
Jan 22	<b>First 1-2 page response due</b>
Jan 29	<b>Second 1-2 page response due</b>
Feb 3-12	Hemingway <u>In Our Time</u>
Feb 5	<b>Third 1-2 page response due</b>

Feb 17	<b>First essay drafts due:</b> Workshop Day
Feb 19-Mar 3	Poetry; readings TBA
Feb 19	<b>Revised Essay 1 due</b>
Mar 3	<b>Fourth 1-2 page response due</b>
Mar 5	Midterm
Spring Break	
Mar 17-26	Lahiri <u>Interpreter of Maladies</u>
Mar 24	<b>Fifth response paper due</b>
Mar 26th	Peer reviews: <b>draft of Essay 2 due in class</b>
Mar 31-Apr 2	Poetry TBA
Mar 31	<b>Revised Essay 2 due</b>
Apr 7	<b>Complete first version of research paper due/peer reviews</b>
Apr 9-16	<u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u>
Apr 16	<u>Midsummer</u> <b>sixth response paper due</b>
Apr 21	Versions of <u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u> (films)
Apr 21	<b>Research paper with first version and peer reviews due</b>
Apr 23	E-literature
Apr 27	Review for final
<b>Final Exam Friday May 1st</b>	