

ENGLISH 181: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE (10 AM)

Dr. Christine Loflin
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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30 TTh 11-12 and by appointment

Course objectives: This course will teach you how to analyze works of literature from a variety of cultures and historical periods. Your work will include class participation, in-class exercises and quizzes, six essays, 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 formal research paper in the proper 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 six critical essays. On the class meeting before writing workshop days, you must bring to class two copies of a complete draft of your essay. 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 a formal research paper.
 - 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:

The Bedford Introduction to Literature. 5th edition
Kincaid, Jamaica. Annie John
portfolio folder to hold all of your drafts and papers

Recommended:

The Bedford Handbook
Dictionary (strongly recommended: American Heritage)

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. If you are present but unprepared, I will ask you to leave and count that class as an absence. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower

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your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Tardiness: I expect you to be on time for every class. If you come to class after we have started, it will count as an absence.

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 15% 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.

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 Bedford Handbook*. 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 49-52 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Essays	50%
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	15%
Final Exam	15%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 34 of the Oxford College catalog.

Weekly Outline of Topics to be covered:

Wed August 30 Introduction and Objectives

September 1st Fiction and Writing About Fiction
Readings: "Young Goodman Brown" 310

"The Lesson" 179 Sep 1st "The Purloined Letter" 564, Writing
About Fiction 40-59
Sep 1: drafts of Essay #1 due in class

Sep 3 Writing Workshop/ Reading: "Girl" 534

September 6--no class (Labor Day holiday)
Sep 8 Essay #1 due

Sep 8-15 Poetry and Writing about Poetry
 Readings: Sep 8 Poetry's Appeal to the Senses 752-757; be ready to discuss "Poem" 753, "On Being Served Apples" 753 "Cavalry Crossing a Ford" 754 "Root Cellar" 756, "The White Porch" 772
 Sep 10 Figures of Speech 775-779 and "a woman is not a potted plant" 700
 Sep 13 "Writing About Poetry" 710-716, "Diction" 717-722 "Dulce et Decorum Est" 763
 Sep 15 "Diction and Tone in Four Love Poems" 728-736 and "The Flea" 1090
 drafts of essay #2 due in class Sep 17th

Sep 17 Library Research Day

Sep 20-24 Writing Workshop/Novel Chs 1-3
 Essay #2 due Sep 22

Sep 27-Oct 1 Novel
 Writing Workshop Oct 1 (drafts due Sep 29)

Oct 4-6 Fiction
 Essay #3 due Oct 4

Oct 7-8 Fall Break

Oct 11-15, 18-22 Drama

Oct 22 Writing Workshop Oct 22
 (drafts due Oct 20)

Oct 25-29 Writing in Other Disciplines
 Essay #4 due Oct 25th

Nov 1-5 The Research Paper
 Essay #5 due Nov 3

Nov 8-12 Fiction
 Research paper due Nov 12th

Nov 15-19, 22 Poetry

Nov 24-26 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 29-Dec 3 Poetry
 Essay #6 due Nov 29th

Dec 6 Review

Final exam: Thurs Dec 9th 9AM

4 Labor Day no class
 Sept 6 Alice Munro An Ounce of Cure
 Writing Drafts Sept 8
 Sept 11. Reading: Andre Dubus Killings 81t
 Apples 753 Blackberry Eating 832 Sept 15
 Sept 18 Sept 20
 Draft of Essay 2 due in class Sept
 22 Writing Workshop Sept 25 Essay #2
 due. Reading: Annie John Chapters 1-2
 Sept 27-Oct 6 Annie John Oct 4 Drafts of Essay
 due.
 Oct 6 Writing Workshop October 9th
 Essay #3 due. Oct 11-13

 October 16-17 Fall Break no class Oct 18
 Drama. Draft of Essay #4 due
 Oct 20 Workshop Oct 23 - The Research
 Paper. We will work on finding and using so
 outlines, revision during this time Essay #4
 due Oct 23 Oct 30-Nov 3 Writing In Other Disc:
 Nov 6-10 Southern Literature
 Essay #5 due Nov 10th
 Nov 13-20 Contemporary Literature
 Research paper due Nov 17 22-24 27-Dec 1
 Poetry
 Dec 4-Dec 8 Poetry. Essay #6 due Dec 4th Dec
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