

English 185 – Critical Reading and Writing
Spring 2011
MW 2-3:15
Office Hours: MW 1-2; TTH 11-1
(and by appointment)

Dr. Adriane Ivey
East Annex 2
PH: 4-8358 email: aivey@emory.edu

Required Texts: Alan Moore, *Promethea*; Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*; Edgar Allan Poe, *Great Tales and Poems*; David Sedaris, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*; other texts on Blackboard and ereserve.

Objectives: This course is designed to teach you to read and write well through close reading and textual analysis. You will learn terms and concepts that will help you understand and interpret literature and rhetoric, and you will practice using those terms and concepts in formal writing assignments. Because to be a good writer, you must be a good reader, this course is designed to give you practice reading carefully and understanding complex texts. We will be reading the literature as rhetoric and interpreting the arguments made by the texts. The many writing assignments of varying lengths will help you strengthen your writing and communication skills. By the end of this course, you should be able to read a poem, narrative, or play, understand its main arguments, and write about it in clear and organized prose.

Attendance: Attendance in this course is essential for a successful performance. You will receive three points off your final average for each absence after the third. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. How you use your absences is up to your discretion. Because reading the texts is an integral part of this course, if you come to class without reading, you may be asked to leave and will be counted absent for the day. If lateness becomes a problem, I will start counting tardies as absences.

Deadlines for Assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. NO assignments may be turned in by email.

Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented using MLA format. Your name on any assignment submitted in this class indicates that you abide by the Oxford College Honor Code, that you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work, and that the work is totally your own and has been written exclusively for this course. It is your responsibility to understand the Honor Code. You can read the Honor Code information in the Oxford College Catalog. If you have any questions about this policy, please ask me about it before turning in work that is not your own.

Requirements:

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| - Close reading of the literature | - 1 three-four page paper |
| - Class participation | - 1 four-five-page paper |
| - Daily Reading Quizzes | -Research paper of 6- 8 pages |
| - 5 two-page rhetorical analyses | -Reflective Essay and Portfolio |

Format For Papers: All final essays must be carefully proofread and typed. All essays must have clear theses and provide sufficient evidence from the text (at least 3 specific examples per point).

Rhetorical Analyses (RA): These are short typed papers on the readings assigned for the day on which they are due. If I don't give you a specific question to answer or a specific work to write on, you should focus your attention on one point about that day's reading. At the top of your paper you should write your name and title only; start your essay after skipping one line. You should have a clear argument articulated in a thesis, organized logically, and well-supported with specific references to the text. You should spend only one to two sentences summarizing the text, one to two sentences explaining what you plan to argue, and the rest of the paper making a short and concise critical analysis of the text. These are designed to make writing the larger paper easier and more familiar. **You will use no secondary sources on these assignments**, and you should use parenthetical documentation when you quote from the primary source. Consulting outside sources on these assignments will be considered "unauthorized assistance" and subject to the Honor Code.

Quizzes: We will have unannounced daily reading quizzes, so keep up with the reading. You will take the quiz in the first five minutes of class. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Final Grades will be based on the following percentages:

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| 20% | 5 Rhetorical Analyses |
| 10% | 1 3-4 page paper |
| 15% | 1 4-5 page paper |
| 20% | Daily Reading Quizzes |
| 20% | Research Paper |
| 15% | Portfolio and Reflective Essay |

Other things to know:

Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.

No laptop computers or MP3 players in class. Cell phones are extremely distracting in class. Make sure your phone is turned off or that you leave it at home.

Throw nothing away.

If I am late and there is no notice at the door, you should wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Prepare the next day's assignments for the next meeting.

I reserve the right to amend or modify anything on this statement by means of future hand-outs.

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| W 1/18 | Introduction |
| M 1/23 | <i>This is Water</i> |
| W 1/25 | Poetry |
| M 1/30 | “Letter From Birmingham Jail” by King, on Blackboard; RA 1 due |
| W 2/1 | Poe, “Tell-Tale Heart” |
| M 2/6 | Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado”; RA 1 revised due |
| W 2/8 | Poe, “The Black Cat” |
| M 2/13 | Poe, “The Masque of the Red Death”; RA 2 due |
| W 2/15 | Poe, “The Purloined Letter” |
| M 2/20 | O’Brien |
| W 2/22 | O’Brien |
| M 2/27 | O’Brien; RA 3 due |
| W 2/29 | <i>Prometheus</i> |
| M 3/5 | <i>Prometheus</i> |
| W 3/7 | <i>Stranger Than Fiction</i> discussion |
| M 3/12 | Spring Break |
| W 3/14 | Spring Break |
| M 3/19 | Library Day |
| W 3/21 | Sedaris; RA 4 due |
| M 3/26 | Paper 1 due (draft) |
| W 3/28 | Sedaris |
| M 4/2 | Sedaris; Paper 1 due (final) |
| W 4/4 | Article on Blackboard; RA 5 due (optional) |
| M 4/9 | Library Day |
| W 4/11 | Article on Blackboard; Paper 2 due |
| M 4/16 | Sedaris |
| W 4/18 | Sedaris |
| M 4/23 | Poetry |
| W 4/25 | Research Paper due (draft) |
| M 4/30 | Research Paper due |
| F 5/4 | Final Exam 9:00am-12:00pm |