

English 181 -- Writing About Literature  
Spring 2007  
MWF 11:45-12:35

Dr. Adriane Ivey  
Language 202  
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Office Hours: MW 2-3; T 2:30-5:00; Th 2-5

**Required Texts:** *101 Great American Poems*, Dover Thrift Edition; *Great Short Short Stories: Quick Reads by Great Writers*, Ed. Paul Negri; *The Gold-Bug and Other Tales*, Edgar Allan Poe; *An Ideal Husband*, Oscar Wilde; *Immortal Poems of the English Language*, Ed. Oscar Williams. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, J. K. Rowling; *A Small Room*, May Sarton.

**Objectives:** This course is designed to introduce you to reading and writing about literature. You will learn terms and concepts that will help you understand and interpret poetry, fiction, and drama, and you will practice using those terms and concepts in formal writing assignments.

**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.

**Deadlines for Assignments:** Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any late assignments will lose 1/3 a letter grade for each day (not class period) they are late.

**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.

**Requirements:**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| - Close reading of the literature | - 2 three-four-page papers on the stories |
| - Class participation             | - Research paper of 7- 8 pages            |
| - Daily Reading Quizzes           | - One midterm Exam                        |
| - 4 one-page rhetorical analyses  | - One Final Exam                          |

**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 texts. 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.

**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:**

- 20% 10 Rhetorical Analyses (2% each)
- 20% 2 three-four-page papers (10% each)
- 15% Daily Reading Quizzes
- 15% Midterm Exam
- 15% Research Paper
- 15% Final Exam

**Other things to know:**

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.

### Readings and Assignments

RA due dates: The class will be divided into three groups (A, B, and C), and you will turn in an RA each time your group is listed on the syllabus. You will write ten RAs this semester.

**Key:**    **GAP**=*Great American Poems*            **IP**=*Immortal Poems of the English Language*            **CC**=Class Conference  
              **SP**=Selected Poems for English 181 (available as E-Mail attachment to the Class Conference)  
              **GSSS**=*Great Short Short Stories: Quick Reads by Great Writers* (edited by Paul Negri)

Wed. 1/17	Introduction
Fri. 1/19	Weyman "Did I Miss Anything" (SP); Locklin "The Iceberg Theory" (SP); Graves "Down Wanton Down" (SP); Sandberg "Chicago" (GAP 53); Auden "Unknown Citizen" (GAP 79); Browning "My Last Duchess" (IP 402); Glossary of Literary Terms, pages 1-2 (CC)
Mon. 1/22	Pound "In a Station in the Metro" (GAP 62); Bishop "The Fish" (SP); Hopkins "Pied Beauty" (IP 458); Hughes "Negro Speaks of Rivers" (GAP 77); Williams "Red Wheelbarrow" (GAP 60) and "This is Just to Say" (GAP 61); Owen "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (SP); <b>RA 1 Group A</b>
Wed. 1/24	Frost "The Road Not Taken" (GAP 49); Donne "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning" (IP 91), "Death Be Not Proud" (IP 89), and "The Flea" (IP 95); Whitman "I Saw in Louisiana" (IP 420); Plath "Metaphors" (SP); Momaday "Simile" (SP); Stephens "The Wind" (SP); Ammons "Coward" (SP); Atwood "You Fit Into Me" (SP); <b>RA 1 Group B</b>
Fri. 1/26	Robinson "Richard Cory" (GAP 39); Simon "Richard Cory" (SP); Auden "Funeral Blues" (SP); Dylan "The Times They Are A'Changin'," "Blowin' in the Wind," and "Like a Rolling Stone" (SP); Hughes "Weary Blues" (SP); <b>RA 1 Group C</b>
Mon. 1/29	Bergman "An Apology" (SP); Koch "Variations on a Theme" (SP); Gambino "This is Just to Say" (SP); Brooks "We Real Cool" (SP); Hughes "A Dream Deferred" (GAP 75) and "Dream Boogie" (SP); Hopkins "God's Grandeur" (IP 458); Cole "On My Boat on Lake Cayuga" (SP); Belloc "The Hippopotamus" (SP); Glossary of Literary Terms, page 3 (CC); <b>RA 2 Group A</b>
Wed. 1/31	Drayton "Farewell to Love" (IP 45); Sidney "Loving in Truth" (IP 30); Spenser "One Day" (IP 38); Shakespeare sonnets (CC); Cullen "Yet Do I Marvel" (SP); McKay "If We Must Die" (GAP 70); Glossary of Literary Terms, page 4 (CC); <b>RA 2 Group B</b>
Fri. 2/2	Millay sonnets (CC); McKay sonnets (SP); <b>RA 2 Group C</b>
Mon. 2/5	Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (IP 325); Dunbar "Sympathy" (GAP 42) and "We Wear the Mask" (GAP 43); Whitman "Grass" (IP 420); Auden "Musée des Beaux Arts" (IP 580); <b>RA 3 Group A</b>
Wed. 2/7	Arnold "Dover Beach" (IP 428); Keats "Ode on Melancholy" (IP 332) and "When I Have Fears" (324); Hardy "Darkling Thrush" (IP 451), "Hap" (IP 454), and "Convergence of the Twain" (SP); Larkin "Coming" (SP); <b>RA 3 Group B</b>
Fri. 2/9	Dickinson "Success is Counted Sweetest" (IP 443), "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" (IP 443), "There is a Certain Slant of Light" (IP 445), "I Died for Beauty" (IP 446), and "I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died" (IP 446); "Much Madness is Divinest Sense" and "Tell All the Truth" (SP); <b>RA 3 Group C</b>
Mon. 2/12	Donne "Go and Catch a Falling Star" (IP 80); Herrick "To the Virgins" (IP 97); Marvell "To His Coy Mistress" (IP 140); Shelley "Ozymandias" (IP 295) and "Ode to the West Wind" (IP 297); <b>RA 4 Group A</b>
Wed. 2/14	Wordsworth "The World is Too Much With Us" (IP 260); Ammons "SWOGGLED" (SP); Tennyson "Ulysses" (IP 375); Eliot "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock" (GAP 66); <b>RA 4 Group B</b>
Fri. 2/16	Yeats "Second Coming" (IP 489) and "Leda and the Swan" (IP 491); Thomas "Refusal to Mourn the Death" (IP 612) and "Fern Hill" (IP 615); <b>RA 4 Group C</b>

Mon. 2/19	Frost “Birches,” “Design,” and “Mending Wall” (GAP 46-48); Bryant “Thanatopsis” (GAP 2); Whitman “A Noiseless, Patient Spider” (GAP 24) and “When I Heard the Learned Astronomer” (GAP 26); <b>RA 5 Group A</b>
Wed. 2/21	Poems by Mary Oliver (CC); <b>RA 5 Group B</b>
Fri. 2/23	Poems by Billy Collins (CC); <b>RA 5 Group C</b>
Mon. 2/26	<b>Paper #1 due (see assignment below)</b>
Wed. 2/28	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Fri. 3/2	TBA
Mon. 3/5	TBA
Wed. 3/7	Munro/Saki “The Open Window” (GSSS)
Fri. 3/9	DeMaupassant “The Piece of String” (GSSS)
<b>SPRING BREAK: 3/12 – 3/16</b>	
Mon. 3/19	Gilman “If I Were A Man” (GSSS)
Wed. 3/21	Jewett “A White Heron” (GSSS)
Fri. 3/23	Wilde “The Sphinx Without a Secret” (GSSS)
Mon. 3/26	Wilde <i>An Ideal Husband</i>
Wed. 3/28	<i>An Ideal Husband</i>
Fri. 3/30	<b>Paper #2 due (see assignment below);</b> Rowling <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone</i>
Mon. 4/2	<i>Harry Potter</i>
Wed. 4/4	<i>Harry Potter</i>
Fri. 4/6	Sarton <i>A Small Room</i>
Mon. 4/9	<i>A Small Room</i>
Wed. 4/11	<i>A Small Room</i>
Fri. 4/13	Poe “The Fall of the House of Usher”
Mon. 4/16	Poe “A Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Cask of Amontillado”
Wed. 4/18	Poe “Ligieia”
Fri. 4/20	<b>Research Paper Draft Due;</b> Peer Reviews
Mon. 4/23	Poe “The Masque of the Red Death” and “The Black Cat”
Wed. 4/25	Poe “The Pit and the Pendulum”
Fri. 4/27	Poe “Murders in the Rue Morgue”
Mon. 4/30	<b>Research Paper Final Due;</b> Review for exam
Wed 5/1	Reading Day

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, May 8, 9:00am-12:00pm**

Note: Assignments and due dates are subject to change (with notice).

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### Assignments

**Paper #1 (poetry):** Mary Oliver's and Elizabeth Bishop's poems titled "The Fish" have similar themes and subjects but with major differences in symbolism, description, and narrative. Discuss the similarities and differences in these two approaches to catching a fish. This paper should not be a simple list of similarities and differences; you **MUST** have a clear thesis and then support it with ample references to the poems themselves. Do not quote more than three lines at a time. Use MLA style for your parenthetical documentation. Use no outside sources; this should represent **YOUR** reading of these poems. The paper must be at least three full pages long and no more than four. On the first page, include your name and the paper's title, with no other headings, and then leave only one space between the centered title and the paper.