

ENGLISH 185.1J: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

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Office Hours: 10:00-12 Monday and Wednesday 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, two essays, six response papers, a research paper, a midterm 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 four short (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 quizzes or in-class assignments.

- 5) Complete the final examination.

Required:

Adiga The White Tiger

Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights

Hemingway In Our Time

Rushdie Haroun and the Sea of Stories

Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream

Woolf, A Room of One's Own

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. Two absences from class will be accepted; any more than that will affect your grade in the class.

Classroom Demeanor: No eating, sleeping or private conversations. Turn your cellphones off. 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 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:	20%
Midterm	10%
Research Paper	15%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	15%

Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:

January 19	Introduction and Objectives. Reading: Hemingway <u>In Our Time</u> "On the Quai at Smyrna."
Jan 21	Reading: Hemingway "Indian Camp" "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife," "The End of Something" and Chapters 1-3.
Jan 24	Hemingway pages 51-103. First response paper due.

Jan 26	Hemingway—finish <u>In Our Time</u> .
Jan 28	Adiga <u>The White Tiger</u>
Jan 31-Feb 4	<u>The White Tiger</u>
Feb 7	Finish Adiga
Feb 9-11	<u>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</u>
Feb 14	<u>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</u>
Feb 21-25	<u>A Room of One's Own</u>
Feb 28	finish <u>A Room of One's Own</u>
Mar 2	Midterm
Mar 4	<u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Spring Break	
Mar 14	<u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Mar 16	Library research day
Mar 18-21	<u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Mar 23	finish <u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Mar 25	Writing in other disciplines
Mar 28-30	Writing in other disciplines
Apr 1	Workshop day
Apr 4-8	Poetry
Apr 11	Workshop day
Apr 13-15	<u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u>
Apr 20-22	TBA
Apr 25 th	Review for final