

ENGLISH 181.2A: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

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Office Hours: MW 10-11:30, T 4-5:30 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

Woolf To The Lighthouse

Wilder Our Town

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 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:

Aug 26	Introduction and Objectives; Storytelling
Aug 31	Paragraph due
Sept 2	Hemingway <u>In Our Time</u> First 1-2 page response due
Sept 7	Labor Day—no class
Sept 9	
Sept 14	Second 1-2 page response due
Sept 16-28th	<u>To The Lighthouse</u>

Sept 30th	First essay drafts due: Workshop Day
Oct 5	Revised Essay 1 due; finish <u>To The Lighthouse</u>
Oct 5-7	Poetry; readings TBA
Oct 12-13	Fall Break
Oct 14	Third 1-2 page response due
Oct 19	Midterm
Oct 21-28	Lahiri <u>Interpreter of Maladies</u>
Oct 28	Fourth response paper due
Nov 2	Peer reviews: draft of Essay 2 due in class
Nov 4-Nov 9	<u>Our Town</u>
Nov 4	Proposal for research paper due
Nov 9	Revised Essay 2 due
Nov 16	Complete first version of research paper due/peer reviews
Nov 11, 18	<u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u>
Nov 18	<u>Midsummer</u> Fifth response paper due
Nov 23	Versions of <u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u> (films)
Nov 23	
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30	Research paper with first version and peer reviews due
	E-literature
Dec 2	Sixth 1-2 page response paper due
Dec 7	Review for final
Final Exam Tuesday December 15, 7-10 PM	