

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 M, T, W, Th, and by appointment

Office Phone: 4-8372

Home Phone: 770-784-8269

Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Ed. Kirsznar and Mandell

The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Diana Hacker

The Merchant of Venice. William Shakespeare. Signet edition preferred

Antigone. Sophocles. Trans. Woodruff. Hackett edition preferred

a good dictionary

Aug. 31 introduction to course; introduction to fiction

Sept. 05 paragraphs due; fiction

07 fiction

12 draft materials due; writing workshop

14 draft materials due; writing workshop

15 first fiction essay due by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

19 fiction

21 fiction

26 fiction

28 fiction

29 second fiction essay due by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

Oct. 03 introduction to the research paper

06 library visit; tentative topics for the r. p. due

[individual appointments with Library staff, from 10/6 through 10/13]

FALL BREAK

12 introduction to drama; Antigone; topics for the r. p. due

16 resubmission of topics for the r. p. by 4:30 p.m.

17 Antigone

19 Antigone; working bibliography for the r. p. due

[attendance at the Oxford production of Antigone required; October 19, 20, or 21]

24 The Merchant of Venice

26 The Merchant of Venice

[note-taking for the r. p. in process--to be completed by 11/3]

[attendance at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company production of The Merchant of Venice required, on Sunday evening, October 29, or on your own earlier in the run]

Nov. 31 The Merchant of Venice; thesis and topic outline for the r. p. due  
02 The Merchant of Venice

06 revised thesis and sentence outline for the r. p. due by 4:30 p.m.  
07 A Midsummer Night's Dream  
09 A Midsummer Night's Dream  
10 drama essay due by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

[conference for the r. p. all next week; drafts due]

14 MAAN  
16 MAAN

[attendance at the OESA production of A Midsummer Night's Dream required, on November 16, 17, or 18]

21 introduction to poetry; r. p. due by 4:30 p.m. (20%)

THANKSGIVING

28 poetry  
30 poetry

Dec. 05 poetry  
07 poetry

12 last day of class; preparation for final exam

13 Wednesday: reading day; poetry essay due by 4:30 p. m. (15%)

15 Friday: final exam for section 10J, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. (10%)

18 Monday: final exam for section 11J, 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. (10%)

#### Course Requirements:

The successful completion of English 181 will require the following of each student enrolled in the course:

1. close reading of the literary texts assigned
2. exercises on these texts
3. discussion of these texts
4. discussion of ways to write about these texts
5. preparation of five critical essays on these texts
6. preparation of a substantive research paper (as the culmination of a full-fledged research process)

7. taking of a final exam applying and demonstrating the critical techniques and writing skills developed during the semester

#### Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, the successful student should have developed skills deemed particularly important in liberal arts education, namely his or her ability to read closely and analytically, to think critically and creatively, and to write persuasively, selecting, organizing, and presenting evidence sufficient to support meaningful theses in clear, correct, and effective prose, acknowledging any sources used with appropriate documentation. Class discussion will develop each student's ability to articulate his or her views aloud, as well. All of these skills should prove enormously useful in the rest of the student's academic endeavors and in his or her career, and all of them should enrich the student's life immeasurably, too.

#### Policy on Attendance:

You may have two absences with no penalty (though you will be considered responsible for work done or due in class on any day you miss for any reason and responsible for informing yourself about any assignments or announcements made on days which you miss). Further absences, if unexcused, will involve a penalty. Absence three will count 1 1/2 points off of your final grade in the course. Absence four will count 2 1/2 points off. Absence five will count 4 points off. Further absences will count 5 points off each.

Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse an absence (and note that students should inform me of the latter ahead of time).

Students who come to class late (after I have taken attendance) are responsible for asking me to correct the attendance record right after class. That record will not be adjusted at a later date. Frequent tardiness will result in a penalty (more points taken from the final grade).

#### Policy on Late or Missing Work:

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse late out-of-class work. Work whose lateness is unexcused will lose one letter grade for each calendar day it is late. After four days, unexcused late work will not be accepted at all and will receive a zero.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse a missing draft (and/or other required preliminary material for an essay or research paper). Should a draft (and/or other required preliminary material) not be ready when it is due, the paper will be penalized a letter grade (or a portion of a letter grade) when it is handed in.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse missing in-class work such as quizzes or exercises. If the missing work is not excused, it may not be made up and will receive a zero.

Determination of Final Grade:

first fiction essay	10%
second fiction essay	15%
first drama essay	15%
second drama essay	15%
research paper	20%
poetry essay	15%
final exam	10%

The frequency and quality of your contribution to discussion of class-related topics will also impact your final grade. Frequent quality contribution will add up to 2 points to your average in the course. Inadequate contribution may result in the deduction of up to 2 points from that average.

I will be grading the work you submit to me-- and assigning your final grade in the course-- using the plus/minus grading system.

The Honor Code:

The Honor Code will apply to every assignment in this class. Your name on each assignment will constitute acknowledgement that you have done that assignment in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code.