

COURSE OUTLINE

English 185 – Critical Reading & Writing

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Fall 2011 Semester (T/Th, 11:30-12:45)

I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary texts, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (4-5 pages), a research paper (8-10 pages), an oral presentation and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To construct outlines demonstrating that sufficient material has been gathered and organized prior to writing.
- B. To write college-level essays, both expository and argumentative, displaying clarity, organization, and adequate support and/or evidence.
- C. To demonstrate in writing a command of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
- D. To demonstrate a command of library research skills and proper research paper format.
- E. To read literary texts with insight and understanding.
- F. To recognize the characteristics of the major literary genres: poetry, fiction, and drama.
- G. To analyze and explicate a literary text.
- H. To define and employ in writing key terms in the vocabulary of literary study.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief unannounced quizzes which will be factual in nature. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Possible exercises in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. There are no make-ups for missed exercises.
- C. Several in-class writing assignments, tests, and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.

- D. Six formal critical essays (800-1000 words) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- E. A research paper (8-10 pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a research paper is late.
- F. A final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- G. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

III **Grading Practices**

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes, exercises, and in-class writing	15%
Six essays	50%
Research paper	15%
Final examination	15%

IV. **Attendance Policy**

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After two (2) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

V. **Textbooks:**

The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature, 9th edition, ed. Michael Meyer

VI. **Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered**

Aug 25	Fiction & Writing About Fiction
Aug 29-Sept 2	Fiction Paragraph Due
Sept 6-9	Poetry & Writing About Poetry 1st Essay Due

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to the Covered (continued)

Sept 12-16	Poetry
Sept 19-23	Drama 2nd Essay Due
Sept 26-30	Drama
Oct 3-7	Fiction 3rd Essay Due
Oct 10-11	Fall Break
Oct 12-14	Poetry
Oct 17-21	The Research Paper 4th Essay Due
Oct 24-28	Drama
Oct 31-Nov 4	Drama 5th Essay Due
Nov 7-11	Poetry
Nov 14-18	Poetry 6th Essay Due (in-class)
Nov 23-25	Thanksgiving Recess
Nov 28-Dec 2	Poetry Research Paper due
Dec 6	Last Class
Dec 13, 9am-12noon	FINAL EXAMINATION

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Seney Hall, Room 115B, and my office hours are the following:

Monday through Friday 2:00-3:00 PM

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what **plagiarism** is.