

English 181 -- Writing About Literature  
Fall 2007  
MW 3:30-4:45  
Humanities 201

Dr. Adriane Ivey  
Language 202  
PH: 4-8358 email: [aivey@emory.edu](mailto:aivey@emory.edu)  
Office Hours: MTWTH am by appointment;  
T 1:30-2:30 and 4-5; TH 1:30-2:30 and 3-5

**Required Texts:** *101 Great American Poems*, Dover Thrift Edition; *Great Short Short Stories: Quick Reads by Great Writers*, Ed. Paul Negri; *He, She, and It*, Marge Piercy; *A Comedy of Errors*, Shakespeare; *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley; *Immortal Poems of the English Language*, Ed. Oscar Williams.

**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. Because to be a good writer, you must be a good reader, this course is designed to give you practice reading carefully and understanding complex texts. The many writing assignments of varying lengths will help you strengthen your writing and communication skills.

**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 second. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. How you use your absences is up to your discretion. Because reading the texts is an integral part of this course, if you come to class without reading, you may be asked to leave and will be counted absent for the day. If lateness becomes a problem, I will start counting tardies as absences.

**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    | - 1 four-five-page paper on poetry |
| - Class participation                | - Research paper of 6- 8 pages     |
| - Daily Reading Quizzes              | - One midterm Exam                 |
| - 8 one-two-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%	8 Rhetorical Analyses
10%	1 4-5 page paper
20%	Daily Reading Quizzes
20%	Research Paper
15%	Midterm Exam
15%	Final Exam

**Other things to know:**

No laptop computers or MP3 players in class. 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

**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. 8/29	Introduction
Wed. 9/5	Chopin "Story of An Hour" (CC); Literary terms (CC); Using Quotations (CC)
Mon. 9/10	Munro/Saki "The Open Window" (GSSS); Saki "The Storyteller"(e-reserve); <b>RA 1</b>
Wed. 9/12	Gilman "If I Were A Man" (GSSS); Wilde "The Sphinx Without a Secret" (GSSS); Carver "A Small Good Thing" (e-reserve)
Mon. 9/17	Jewett "A White Heron" (GSSS); Tolstoy "The Three Hermits" (GSSS); <b>RA 2</b>
Wed. 9/19	Shakespeare: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (Acts I & II);
Mon. 9/24	Shakespeare: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> (Complete); <b>RA 3</b>
Wed. 9/26	Mary Shelley: <i>Frankenstein</i>
Mon. 10/1	<i>Frankenstein</i> ; <b>RA 4</b>
Wed. 10/3	<b>Library Day</b> ; start Marge Piercy: <i>He, She, and It</i>
Mon. 10/8	<b>Mid-semester Break: No Class</b>
Wed. 10/10	<i>He, She, and It</i>
Mon. 10/15	<i>He, She, and It</i> ; <b>RA 5</b>
Wed. 10/17	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Mon. 10/22	Weyman "Did I Miss Anything" (SP); Locklin "The Iceberg Theory" (SP); Graves "Down Wonton Down" (SP); Auden "Unknown Citizen" (GAP 79); Browning "My Last Duchess" (IP 402); 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); Glossary of Literary Terms, pages 1-2 (CC)
Wed. 10/24	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); Herrick "To the Virgins" (IP 97); Marvell "To His Coy Mistress" (IP 140); <b>RA 6</b>
Mon. 10/29	<b>Paper #1 draft due; peer reviews</b>
Wed. 10/31	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), "Weary

Blues” () 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)

Mon. 11/5	<b>Paper #1 final due;</b> 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); Arnold “Dover Beach” (IP 428); Keats “Ode on Melacholy” (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)
Wed. 11/7	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); Millay sonnets (CC); McKay sonnets (SP) Shelley “Ozymandias” (IP 295); <b>RA 7</b>
Mon. 11/12	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); 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>First two Annotated Sources due</b>
Wed. 11/14	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>Third Annotated Source due</b>
Mon. 11/19	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>Annotated bibliography due</b>
Wed. 11/21	<b>Thanksgiving Break—No Class</b>
Mon. 11/26	Poems by Mary Oliver (CC); Poems by Billy Collins (CC); <b>RA 8</b>
Wed. 11/28	<b>Thesis and One-Page Abstract Due</b>
Mon. 12/3	<b>Research Paper draft due; peer reviews</b>
Wed. 12/5	<b>Research Paper conferencing</b>
Mon. 12/10	<b>Research Paper final due; Prepare for final exam</b>

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Thursday, December 13, 7:00-10:00pm**

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

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