

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

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Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. 5th ed. Ed. Kirsznar and Mandell

The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 6th ed. Diana Hacker

The Comedy of Errors. William Shakespeare. Dover edition preferred.

Macbeth. William Shakespeare. Signet edition preferred

a good dictionary

Aug. 30 introduction to course; introduction to fiction

Sept. 04 paragraphs due; fiction

06 fiction

11 draft materials due; writing workshop

13 draft materials due; writing workshop

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

18 fiction

20 fiction

25 fiction

27 fiction

Oct. 02 introduction to the research paper

04 Library visit; preparation for the r. p.

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

[individual appointments with Library staff, from 10/4 through 10/12]

FALL BREAK

11 introduction to drama; The Comedy of Errors; topics for the r. p. due

16 The Comedy of Errors

18 The Comedy of Errors; working bibliography for the r. p. due

[attendance at the Oxford production of The Comedy of Errors required; October 18, 19, 20]

23 A Midsummer Night's Dream

25 A Midsummer Night's Dream

26 first drama essay due by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

[note-taking for the r. p. in process--to be completed by 11/2]

[attendance at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company production of Macbeth required, on Sunday evening, October 28, or on your own earlier in the run]

Nov. 30 A Midsummer Night's Dream; thesis and topic outline for the r. p. due
01 Macbeth

05 revised thesis and sentence outline for the r. p. due by 4:30 p.m.

06 Macbeth

08 Macbeth

09 second drama essay due by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

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

13 introduction to poetry

15 poetry

[attendance at the OESA production of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare required, on November 15, 16, or 17]

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

THANKSGIVING

27 poetry

29 poetry

Dec. 04 poetry

06 poetry

11 last day of class; preparation for final exam

12 Wednesday: reading day; poetry essay due by 4:30 p. m. (20%)

17 Monday: final exam, 2:00 to 5:00 p.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	10%
second drama essay	15%

research paper	20%
poetry essay	20%
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.