

English 181: Writing About Literature

Fall 2006
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104
Hrs: MWF 3:00-4:00

Objectives: *To improve abilities in*

- Understanding literary texts
- Written expression
- Group discussion
- One-on-one peer editing

Methods:

- 6 formal out-of-class paper, 3-4 pgs
- 1 research project, 7-10 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- group work, peer editing
- individual conferences

Class General Guidelines

1. You need to be in class every day. Each absence will result in one point off the final grade per absence. After the first five absences, each additional absence will result in two points off the final grade per absence. You may miss two classes without penalty, if you wish. They could be used for illness or whatever you believe important. There are no excused absences beyond these two. In addition if you are late more than 3 times to class, each additional tardy will be half a point off your final grade. These policies are based on an understanding that 1) no group works well without rules and 2) participants may have to be absent or late sometimes.

2. The Mid Term and Final Essay Exams, covering readings and discussion, will consist of short in-class essays, graded for writing ability and content. The Mid Term will cover the first half of class; the Final, the second half. The Final will be your opportunity to see improvement in your writing and your analytical ability.

3. The 6 papers should be 750 words in length (3 pages.). For some papers, a workshop Day will precede the due date for each paper; complete rough drafts will be due then. Papers will relate to readings from the text. They are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade per day, beginning at the time due; this includes late complete rough drafts for Workshop Day. After the first paper is returned, make an appointment with me so we can see what you need to work on most. The **HONOR CODE** is always in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every Oxford class.

4. Homework may consist of paragraphs, readings, corrections of papers, and unannounced quizzes (brief, factual, easy). Since they are usually related to the work we do in class on a particular day, they cannot be made up if you miss class or are late. However, homework may be turned in early. If you are late, be aware that you may miss a quiz entirely. I will drop the lowest one or two quiz grades.

5. For the research paper (7-8 pages) the grade earned will include all work on topic selection, thesis, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. A sheet of requirements will be distributed. You will have a wide range of possibilities for this paper; it should be an exciting project for you.
6. Class participation includes attendance, attention in class, active listening, discussion and, for those who wish, participation in the LearnLink conference for this class.
7. The Grading policy is based on the + - system.
8. Keep your syllabus handy and follow it. If there are any changes to it, the changes will be to your advantages and announced in class and on the LL conference. The syllabus will be posted on our LL conference.

Grading Policy

Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%,
Homework & Quizzes 10%, Class Participation 10%

- Learnlink Conference: “181 10A Lemons” under Class Conferences, English
- Texts: *Perrine’s Literature*, *Antigone*, *The Practical English Handbook*

Schedule of Assignments

Dates indicate dates assignments are *due*. Authors names, titles, and “Poetry” all refer to *Perrine’s Literature*. There will be changes in the syllabus (this always happens); I will not add anything, but I may cut some readings. These changes will be announced in class and on the class conference. Add the class conference to your desktop so you will always see when there is a message.

Aug 30 Introduction. What is literary analysis? How do we write about literature?

Sept 1 Connell

Note: Read the introductory material for each new section of stories: this one for Sept. 1st is called “Reading The Story.”

Sep 4 Labor Day

Sep 6 Hemingway

Sep 8 Greene, Monro

Sep 11 Walker, Mansfield

Sep 13 Workshop: *Complete Draft Due*. Writing About Fiction, 3-21; 27-35 in *Perrine*.

Sep 15 Poetry 718-720 *Paper 1 Due*

Sep 18 Poetry 721-731

Sep 20 Poetry 737-745
Sep 22 Antigone
Sep 25 Antigone
Sep 27 Poetry 745-749 *Paper 2 Due*
Sep 29 Poetry 757-767;
Oct 2 Poetry 771-781
Oct 4 Workshop: *Complete Draft Due*
Oct 6 *Paper 3 Due*
Oct 9-10 Fall Break
Oct 11 Poetry 781-792
Oct 13 Mid Term Exam
Oct 16 Glass Menagerie Act 1
Oct 18 Glass Menagerie Act II
Oct 20 The Boor 1530
Oct 23 *Thesis & Parag. for Research Project Due*
Oct 25 Workshop: *Complete Draft Due*
Oct 27 *Paper 4 Due*
Oct 30 Glaspell 1132-1144; *Rev. Thesis, Outline, and Parag. Due*
Nov 1 Albee 1145-1151
Nov 3 Library Day
Nov 6 Durang 1152-1158; Valdez 1291-1302
Nov 8 Wolff 187
Nov 10 Welty 223
Nov 13 Jackson 263
Nov 15 Workshop: Research Project: *Partial Draft Due*
Nov 17 Faulkner 281
Nov 20 Lawrence 302
Nov 28 (a Tuesday) Research Project Due at 4pm (Few 104)
Nov 29 Poetry 807-816
Dec 1 Workshop
Dec 4 *Paper 5 Due*
Dec 6 Poetry 816-820
Dec 8 Poetry 820-824
Dec 11 Catch Up or Review
Dec 13 Reading Day
Dec 19 (Tues) 9-12 pm: Final Exam

