## English 181 - Writing About Literature

Dr. Lucas Carpenter Fall 1998 Semester

# I. Objectives of the Course

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (3-5 printed pages), and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To organize and develop ideas through the use of specific information.
- B. To construct outlines illustrating that sufficient material has been gathered and organized according to the laws of unity, emphasis and coherence.
- C. To demonstrate orally and in writing a command of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
- D. To write college-level essays which show a mastery of the fundamentals of effective expository and argumentative writing.
- E. To demonstrate a command of library research skills and proper research paper format.
- F. To define the essential characteristics of each of the major literary genres: poetry, short story, novel, and play.
- G. To analyze and explicate a literary text.
- H. To define the larger structures of the works to be read during the course, the various problems these works present, the literary-historical background against which they appear, and the styles in which they are written.

#### 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 (3-5 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- E. A research paper (8-10 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a research paper is late.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

1

# II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course (continued)

- 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	10%
Six essays Research paper Final examination	50% 15% 20%

NOTE: My grading system is A, B, C, D, F. No plus (+) or minus (-) on the final grade.

# 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 <u>personal responsibility</u> to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

#### V. Textbook

The Bedford Introduction to Literature 4th edition, ed. Michael Meyer

## VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

August 26-28 Fiction & Writing About Fiction

August 31-September 4 Fiction

Paragraph Due

September 7-11 Poetry & Writing About Poetry

1st Essay Due

September 14-18 Poetry

September 21-25 Drama

2nd Essay Due

# VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered (continued)

September 28-October 2

Drama

October 5-9

**Fiction** 

3rd Essay Due

October 12-13

Mid-Term Break

October 14-16

**Fiction** 

October 19-23

Poetry

4th Essay Due

October 26-30

The Research Paper

November 2-6

Drama

5th Essay Due

November 9-13

Drama

November 16-20

Poetry

6th Essay Due (in-class)

November 23-24

Research Paper Due

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Recess

November 30-December 4

Poetry

December 8

Last Class

December 10-11, 14-16

**Final Examinations** 

# VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

Monday - Friday - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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.