

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 M, W, Th, and by appointment

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Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing, 4th ed. Ed. Kirsznner and Mandell

The Bedford Handbook, 5th ed. Diana Hacker

Measure for Measure, Shakespeare. Signet edition  
a good dictionary

Aug. 30 introduction to course; introduction to poetry

Sept. 04 poetry

06 preparation for essay

11 draft due

13 poetry essay due (10%); poetry

18 poetry

20 preparation for essay

25 draft due

27 poetry essay due (10%); introduction to fiction

Oct. 02 fiction

04 fiction

09 fiction

11 fiction; introduction to the research paper

12 tentative r.p. topics due (on-line)

16 Fall Break

17 probable r.p. topics due (on-line)

18 library visit (for r.p.)

19 fiction essay due (15%) (in office)

23 Southern Studies fiction; final r.p. topics due

25 S.S. fiction; bibliography for r.p. due

30 S.S. fiction

Nov. 01 S.S. fiction; tentative thesis statement and topic outline for r. p. due

05 S.S. fiction essay due (15%) (in office)

06 S.S. fiction: presentation and discussion

08 S.S. fiction: presentation and discussion

09 revised thesis statement and sentence outline for r. p. due (on-line)

13 introduction to drama NOTE: conference on draft of r. p. required during the week

15 drama

20 drama

21 research paper due by 5:00 (20%) (in office)

THANKSGIVING

Nov. 27 A Midsummer Night's Dream  
29 A Midsummer Nights' Dream [production of MND by OESA]

Dec. 04 Measure for Measure  
06 Measure for Measure [production of MforM by ASC]

11 final discussion of Shakespeare plays; preparation for final exam  
12 reading day: drama essay due (15%) (in office)

Final Exams (10%):

for 11J: Friday, December 14, 9:00 to 12:00  
for 09B: Wednesday, December 19, 9:00 to 12:00

### 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, in class and on-line
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). 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 a late essay or research paper. 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 for class discussion and/or discussion in conference and/or submission on-line on the day 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 late or missing homework assignments or in-class quizzes or exercises. If the lateness of such work is not excused, it may not be submitted at all and will receive a zero.

Determination of Final Grade:

first poetry essay.....	10%
second poetry essay.....	10%
first fiction essay.....	15%
second fiction essay.....	15%
research paper.....	20%
drama essay.....	15%
final exam.....	10%

The final 5% of your grade will reflect the frequency and quality of your contribution to in-class discussion and on-line discussion of class- related topics.

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 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.