

English 185: Critical Reading & Writing

Fall 2013
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104
Hrs: M-F 3-4pm

Objectives: To improve abilities in:

- Reading & understanding literary texts
- Written expression
- Oral expression
- Research techniques

Methods to achieve objectives:

- 5 papers, 3 pages each
- 1 research project, 6-7 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- writing workshops; one-on-one & group peer editing
- individual conferences with the instructor
- participation in the class Blog

Guidelines

1. **Texts:** *Perrine's Literature* (11th ed.) & *Practical English* (any recent ed.)

Have your own copy of *Perrine's Literature* in class every day. You will be reading aloud from it and doing your own exercises from it.

2. Expectations for **Attendance:** Be in class every day, prepared to contribute. We learn from each other through spontaneous discussion; that's why it is impossible to "make up" a missed class. Each absence results in 1 point off the final grade. After the first 5 absences, each additional absence is 2 points off. BUT, you may miss 2 classes without penalty—use them for illness, family matters, or whatever is important. There are no excused absences beyond these 2. If you are **late** more than 3 times, each additional tardy will be half a point off your final grade. These policies recognize both first that students have to be absent sometimes and second that no group works without requirements. Doctor's notes are usually not accepted; if you are **ill** more than 3 days in a row contact Dr. Martucci, Director of Academic Services as soon as you can, so she can alert all your teachers.

2. The Mid Term and Final Essay **Exams**, covering readings and discussion, will be in-class essays answering one discussion question, graded for writing and content. The Mid Term covers the first half of class; the Final, the second half. The Final is your opportunity to show improvement.

3. The 5 **Papers** are 750 words--3 pgs.--although the first paper may be 2 pgs. A **Workshop Day** will precede the final due date; complete rough drafts are due on Workshop Days, and having no complete draft will reduce your actual paper grade by one letter. Late final papers lose one letter grade per day, beginning at the time due. After the first paper is returned, make an appointment with me to look at your revisions and discuss what you need to work on.
4. The **Honor Code** is in effect for all your work in this class and every class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. You must submit your own work, not another's, and if you use material other than your own (from the internet, books, etc.) that material must be acknowledged with citations.
5. **Read** each story twice and every poem several times--you will understand what is going on and enjoy the reading more, as well as be more confident about expressing yourself in class. Assignments, corrections of papers, and quizzes are the work we do in class on a particular day; they cannot be made up if you miss class or are late. I will drop the lowest 2 quiz grades. **Quizzes** are quick, easy, mostly factual, and frequent.
6. The **Research Project** (6-7 pages) will include work on a literary topic, thesis, paragraphs, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. Guidelines and requirements will be distributed. Your paper should be an interesting, exciting, project for you. We will meet in the library 1 or 2 days for research orientation.
7. Class **Participation** includes attendance, active listening, frequent oral contribution, and participation on the Blog. Each student will **present** one poem from the text to the class in the second half of the semester. Rules for the **Blog**: 9 entries and 12 comments over the course of the semester, no more than one entry and comment per day. Entries are paragraph-long thoughts about the readings or discussions. Comments are shorter and respond to what other classmates have written in the Blog. You will probably want to make more comments and entries than are required!
8. **Grading Policy**: Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%, Homework & Quizzes 10%, Participation 10%. Keep track of your own grades. I do not average anything until the final exam has been graded.
9. Keep your **Syllabus** handy and follow it. It will be on the class **Blackboard** site. Changes will be announced in class and on BB ahead of time. Check BB often for announcements, updates, handouts and the Blog.
10. College students and teachers behave in a **Professional** manner: meeting deadlines, following guidelines, preparing ahead, cooperating with classmates, and taking the initiative to contribute positively. The class will be more fun, interesting, and helpful to you now and in the future the closer we come to these standards.

Schedule of Assignments: English 185: Fall 2013

Dates indicate when assignments are *due*. Authors' names, titles, and "Poetry" all refer to *Perrine's Literature*. PEH stands for *Practical English Handbook*. There may be changes—it's normal to get behind as we get more and more out of the stories and poems! Changes will be announced in class and on the Blog.

***Note:** Read the introductory material *for each new section* of stories or poems: the first one, before the first reading, is "Reading The Story," p. 61-67. The others are marked in the syllabus below.

Aug 28 Introduction	Oct 25 Library Day
Aug 30 Connell & "Reading the Story," p 61*	Oct 28 Poetry p. 657-665
Sep 4 Wolff & PEH Chapter 43	Oct 30 Poetry p. 666-677, Outline of Research Paper Due
Sep 9 "Plot & Structure" (104), Greene	Nov 1 Poetry, cont.
Sep 11 Munro	Nov 4 Poetry, cont
Sep 13 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Nov 6 Poetry, cont
Sep 16 Lahiri; Paper 1 due at 4 pm	Nov 8 Poetry, cont.
Sep 18 "Characterization" 161; Walker	Paper #5 due at 4 pm
Sep 20 Mansfield	Nov 11 Library Day
Sep 23 Baldwin	Nov 13 Poetry, presentations
Sep 25 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Nov 15 Poetry, presentations
Sep 27 "Theme," (208) & Welty: Paper 2 due at 4 pm	Nov 18 Poetry, presentations
Sep 30 "Point of View," 253 & Cather	Nov 20 Poetry, presentations (Draft of Research Paper Due)
Oct 2 Jackson	Nov 22 Trifles
Oct 4 "Symbol," (300) & Lawrence	Nov 25 Research Paper Due
Oct 7 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Nov 27-29 Thanksgiving break
Oct 9 Hawthorne; Paper 3 due at 4 pm	Dec 2 Time Flies
Oct 11 Marquez	Dec 4 Glass Menagerie
Oct 14 Fall Break	Dec 6 Glass Menagerie
Oct 16 Camus	Dec 9 Catch Up Day,
Oct 18 Chopin: Thesis and paragraph of Research Paper due	Paper #6 Due at 4 pm
Oct 21 Workshop: Complete Draft Due	Dec 11 Reading Day
Oct 23 Updike; Paper #4 Due at 4 pm	Dec 17: 9-12 noon: Final Exam
9-12 noon Final Exam	