

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

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

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Texts:

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

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

Macbeth. William Shakespeare. Any scholarly edition. Signet ordered.
a good dictionary

Aug. 28 introduction to course; introduction to poetry
30 poetry

Sept. 02 Labor Day
04 poetry
06 poetry

07 preparation for essay
09 draft due day
11 poetry essay due (10%)

16 poetry
18 poetry
20 preparation for essay

23 draft due day
25 poetry
27 poetry essay due (15%)

Oct. 30 introduction to fiction
02 fiction
04 fiction

07 fiction
09 fiction
11 fiction; brief introduction to research paper

14 Fall Break
16 full introduction to research paper; tentative r. p. topics due
18 library visit (for r. p.); fiction essay due (15%)

21 introduction to drama; Macbeth; probable r. p. topics due
23 Macbeth
25 Macbeth; working bibliography for r. p. due

[production of Macbeth by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, Sunday, November 27,
6:30 p.m.]

- 28 Macbeth
 30 Macbeth
 Nov. 01 no class (conference on campus)
- 04 more work on r. p.
 06 drama essay due (15%); A Midsummer Night's Dream
 08 A Midsummer Night's Dream; tentative thesis and topic outline for r.p. due
- 11 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 13 A Midsummer Night's Dream; revised thesis and sentence outline due
 15 A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 18 A Midsummer Night's Dream
 20 A Midsummer Night's Dream [conferences for r. p. all week; draft due]
 22 work with Twelfth Night
- [production of Twelfth Night by the Oxford Ensemble of Shakespearean artists]
- 25 work with Twelfth Night; r. p. due Tuesday, November 26, by 5:00 p.m. (20%)

THANKSGIVING

- Dec. 02 fiction
 04 fiction
 06 fiction
- 09 last day of class; preparation for final exam
 11 reading day; fiction essay due (10%)
- 12 final exam for section 09B, 9:00-12:00 a.m. (10%)
- 16 final exam for section 11J, 9:00-12:00 a.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, 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). Absences three and four will count 1 point each off of your final grade in the course. Absences five and six will count 2 points each off. Further absences will count 3 1/3 points each off.

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