

## English 181: Writing About Literature

Spring 2010  
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104  
Office Hours: M-F 3-4pm & by app't

**Objectives:** *To improve abilities in*

- Reading and understanding literary texts
- Written expression
- Group discussion
- One-on-one peer editing

**Methods:**

- 5 papers, 3 pgs each
- 1 reflective essay on the topic "My Writing"
- 1 research project, 6-7 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- group work, peer editing, writing workshop days
- individual conferences

**Texts:**

- *Perrine's Literature, 10<sup>th</sup> ed.*
- *Practical English Handbook*

### Class General Guidelines

1. Attendance: 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. However, you may miss two classes without penalty, if you wish and you don't have to tell me ahead of time. These two absences could be used for illness, family matters, or whatever you believe important. There are no excused absences beyond these two. If you are late more than 3 times, each additional tardy will be half a point off your final grade. These policies are based on an understanding that 1) participants may have to be absent or late sometimes, and 2) no group or class works well without rules and responsibilities for attendance.

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, and it counts more.

3. The 5 papers should be about 700-750 words in length (3 pages.). For most papers, a Workshop Day will precede the due date; complete rough drafts will be due then. Late papers will lose one letter grade per day, beginning at the time due. After the first paper is returned, you should make an appointment with me to look at the revisions you've made and discuss what you need to work on most. You need to keep clean (not graded or marked) copies of all of your papers for a **Portfolio**, which will be provided. This Portfolio, with the reflective essay, will be submitted to me at the end of the semester.

4. The **HONOR CODE** is always in effect for all your assigned work in this class and every Oxford class. Plagiarism is a serious offense according to the Code.
5. Homework may consist of paragraphs, corrections of papers, and unannounced quizzes (brief, factual, easy). Since they are related to the work we do in class on a particular day, they cannot be made up if you miss class or are late. If you are late, be aware that you may miss a quiz entirely. I will drop the lowest one or two quiz grades.
6. For the research paper (6-7 pages) the grade earned will include work on topic selection, paragraphs, thesis, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. A sheet of requirements will be distributed. You will have a range of possibilities for this paper; it should be an exciting project for you.
7. Class participation includes attendance, active listening, discussion and, for those who wish, participation in the LearnLink conference. Also, I am available for lunch conversation about any topic you wish in the cafeteria, with you or with you and one or two others from the class.
8. Grading Policy: Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%, Homework & Quizzes 10%, Class Participation 10% (Keep track of your own grades so you will know how you are doing. I do not average grades until after the final exam.)
9. Keep your syllabus handy and follow it. The syllabus will be posted on our LL conference. Any changes will be announced in class and on the LL conference.
10. Learnlink Conference: "Lemons 181" (either 10:40 or 12:50 depending on you're your class time, under Class Conferences, English. Add the class conference to your desktop so you will always see when there is a message.

### **Schedule of Assignments**

#### **English 181: Writing About Literature. Spring 2010 Dr. Lemons**

Dates indicate when assignments are *due*. Authors names, titles, and "Poetry" all refer to *Perrine's Literature*. There will probably be changes in the syllabus (this almost always happens). These changes will be announced in class and on the class conference.

Jan 13 Introduction. What is literature; what is good literature; what is writing?  
Jan 15 Connell & Wolff. see **Note**, here:

**Note:** Read the introductory material for each new section of stories: this one, right before the 1<sup>st</sup> reading (Connell's story), is "Reading The Story," and it begins on p. 61.

Jan 18 No Class (MLK Day)  
Jan 20 Greene (plus re-read Wolff)  
Jan 22 Munro  
Jan 25 Workshop: *Complete Draft Due*. Writing About Fiction, 3-17 in *Perrine*.

Jan 27 Lahiri, *Paper 1 Due*  
 Jan 29 Walker, Mansfield  
 Feb 1 Hood, Welty  
 Feb 3 Welty, Jackson  
 Feb 5 Hemingway  
 Feb 8 Workshop: Complete Draft Due  
 Feb 10 Paper due  
 Feb 12 Lawrence  
 Feb 15 *Paper 2 Due*, 4 pm at my office  
 Feb 17 O Connor  
 Feb 19 Workshop  
 Feb 22 Paper 3 Due (a Thursday) 4 pm at my office.  
 Feb 24 Allen  
 Feb 26 Camus  
 Mar 1 Mid Term Exam  
 Mar 3 O. Henry  
 Mar 5 Joyce *Thesis & Parag. for Research Project Due*  
 Mar 15 Library Day  
 Mar 17 Achebe  
 Mar 19 Paper due  
 Mar 22 Melville  
 Mar 24 Rev. Thesis, Outline, and First Parag. Due  
 Mar 26 2<sup>nd</sup> Library Day  
 Mar 29 Updike  
 Mar 31 Workshop  
 Apr 2 Poetry  
 Apr 5 Poetry Paper 5  
 Apr 7 Poetry  
 Apr 9 Research Paper Workshop—draft due  
 Apr 12 Poetry  
 Apr 14 Poetry  
 Apr 16 *Research Paper & Project Due*, 4 pm, at my office  
 Apr 19 Glaspel “Trifles”  
 Apr 21 Oates “The Interview”  
 Apr 23 Albee “Sandbox”; Ives “Time Flies”  
 Apr 26 Last Day  
 Apr 30 181 (10:40 class) Final Exam 9-12 noon  
 May 4 181 (12:50 class) Final Exam 7-10 pm