

# Welcome to English 185

English 185 / Fall 2016  
FTDC  
9:30-10:35

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Office: Language 107  
Office Hours: TBA

**Required Texts:** *Leaves of Grass*, Whitman (9780553211160); *Kitchen*, Yoshimoto (9780802142443); *Fledgling*, Butler (9780446696166); *They Say, I Say*, Graff (9780393935844); *Black Power Barbie*, Youngblood (9781482642292) Also: essays, comics, and fiction on Reserves Direct (e-reserves). You will need to print these out and bring copies to class with your written notes in the margins.

**Objectives:** This course is designed to help you practice and develop your writing skills so you can gain from and contribute to the larger academic community you have joined by coming to Oxford College. To that end, we will carefully read and analyze the arguments made in the course texts; discuss theories of writing and rhetoric and put those theories into practice in writing assignments; and we will have animated (I hope) conversations in class about the texts, about writing, and about the issues that arise in the texts we read. You'll see below the Freshman Writing: Student Learning Outcomes (written by the Oxford College English Faculty). Most importantly, the central premise of this course is that reading and writing are forms of communication, and that anytime we communicate, we have an ethical obligation to do our best to both UNDERSTAND and to BE UNDERSTOOD. These skills are essential not only for successful participation in this academic community but also for success in life.

**Critical Reading:** Students will develop their ability to read texts closely and critically, focusing first on understanding before moving to evaluation.

**Critical Writing: Argument:** Students will develop their abilities to compose, organize, and support academic argument in order to engage in ongoing intellectual conversations. **Revision Process:** Students will understand that good writing is the result of a process of planning, drafting, receiving and giving feedback, and revision.

**Research:** Students will develop the abilities to find evidence using library and other resources, to incorporate their findings into academic arguments, and to document their sources.

**Oral Expression:** Students will develop, through informed conversation, the ability to speak clearly and persuasively about the texts they study.

**Honor Code:** The Oxford College Honor Code applies to any work you turn in for any course at Oxford. It is your responsibility to know the Honor Code. If you have questions about the Code or about how it applies specifically in this course, please ask.

**Class Participation:** This grade includes attendance, preparation for class, in-class assignments, and quality (not just quantity) of participation. If you miss class, it is up to you to get whatever material you missed (which may include important announcements as well as notes) from a classmate so that you will be well-prepared for the next class meeting.

**Communication:** We will use two main forms of communication outside of class: email and Canvas. Some of your assignments may include participation in online discussions on Canvas. If you need to set up a meeting with me or ask a question, I am easily accessible by my Emory email address (above). When emailing me, or any professor, make sure you are not asking questions that you can easily find the answer to in some other way. Also, do not expect an immediate response: 24-hours is reasonable. My workday ends at 5:00pm, and when I go home, my attention is on my family, so I will not respond immediately to emails sent to me between 5:00pm and 8:00am the next morning. That said, when I am at school and/or in my office, I am available to you and welcome you to come to my office to talk with me.

**The final grades will be based on the following percentages:** 15% Short essays 15% 5-Page Paper 35% Research Paper 15% Reflective Essay 20% Participation

**Papers and Rhetorical Analyses:** I will provide more detailed instructions about these assignments in other documents as the due dates approach.

## Other Class Policies:

- Please do not use electronic devices, including computers, in class. Handwritten class notes will enhance your memory.
- If I am late, wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Prepare the next day's assignments for the next meeting.
- Save all your paperwork, including graded assignments. You might eventually need them, along with the professor's comments.
- Late assignments drop one-third of a letter grade per day.

**Religious Holiday Arrangements:** In the first two weeks of classes, please inform your professor by email about any absences you may need so that arrangements can be made. Emory's official list of religious holidays: [http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith\\_traditions/holidays.html](http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith_traditions/holidays.html).

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities:** Please contact Access, Disability Services, and Resources (ADSR) to start the registration process. Faculty may not provide disability accommodations until an accommodation letter has been processed, and accommodations are not retroactive. Students need to contact and meet with their professor early in the semester. <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/>

"Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education."