

English 181 -- Writing About Literature  
Spring 2004  
MWF 11:45-12:35  
Language 204A

Dr. Adriane Ivey  
Language 103  
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Office Hours: MTWTH 2:30-4:30 and by appointment

**Required Texts:** *The Story and Its Writer*, Charters; *The Bedford Handbook*, Hacker *An Introduction to Poetry*, Kennedy and Gioia; *Morality Play*, Unsworth; Plus some as yet undetermined drama

**Objectives:** This course is designed to introduce you to reading and writing about literature. You will learn terms and concepts that will help you understand and interpret poetry, fiction, and drama, and you will practice using those terms and concepts in formal writing assignments.

**Attendance:** Attendance in this course is essential for a successful performance. There is no absence policy; however, the daily reading quizzes cannot be made up and will act as an attendance policy. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. How you use your absences is up to your discretion.

**Deadlines for Assignments:** Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. I will accept no late work.

**Plagiarism:** All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented using MLA format. Your name on any assignment submitted in this class indicates that you abide by the Oxford College Honor Code, that you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work, and that the work is totally your own and has been written exclusively for this course. It is your responsibility to understand the Honor Code. You can read the Honor Code information in the Oxford College Catalog.

**Requirements:**

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|---|--|
| - Close reading of the literature                   | - Research paper of 7- 8 pages         |
| - Class participation                               | - One midterm Exam                     |
| - Daily Reading Quizzes                             | - Comprehensive Final Exam             |
| - 6 Rhetorical Analyses: 4 two-page and 2 four-page | (approximately 25-30 pages of writing) |

**Format For Papers:** All final essays must be typed either on a typewriter or on a word processor. They must be double-spaced and stapled. I will not accept folded or paper-clipped papers. In the top left-hand corner of the front page, place your name on the first line, my name on the second line, and the date on the third line. All essays must have titles. You will find revision is easier if documents are word processed because you will not have to retype the entire essay. You may use secondary sources on these papers if necessary, but they must be properly cited and acknowledged.

**Rhetorical Analyses:** These are short 3 page typed papers on the readings. You should have a clear argument articulated in a thesis, organized logically, and well-supported with specific references to the texts. You should spend only one to two sentences summarizing the text, one to two sentences explaining what you plan to argue, and the rest of the paper making a short and concise critical analysis of the text. These are designed to make writing the larger paper easier and more familiar.

**Quizzes:** We will have unannounced daily reading quizzes, so keep up with the reading. You will take the quiz in the first five minutes of class. There will be no make-up quizzes.

**Final Grades will be based on the following percentages:**

- 30% 6 Rhetorical Analyses
- 15% Daily Reading Quizzes
- 15% Midterm Exam
- 20% Research Paper
- 20% Final Exam

**Other things to know:**

I do not allow cell phones in class. Make sure your phone is turned off or that you leave it at home. If your phone goes off in class, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for the day.

Throw nothing away.

If I am late and there is no notice at the door, you should wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Prepare the next day's assignments for the next meeting.

I reserve the right to amend or modify anything on this statement by means of future hand-outs.

**Itinerary**

- W 1/14** Introduction
- F 1/16** Poems in class

## Itinerary

- M 1/19 MLK Jr. Holiday**
- W 1/21** IP: Reading a Poem (3-15) and Listening to a Voice (21-47); especially Browning, Williams, Auden, Owen
- F 1/23** IP: Words (54-78) and Saying and Suggesting (82-92); esp. Williams, Graves, Sandburg, Herrick, Cummings
- M 1/26** IP: Imagery (96-110); esp. Pound, Bishop, Hopkins; plus Hughes "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (401); **RA #1 (2 pages) on "The Road Not Taken" (268)**
- W 1/28** IP: Figures of Speech (119-139); esp. Shakespeare, Dickinson; plus Keats "Ode on Melancholy" (on conference)
- F 1/30** IP: Song (143-163); esp. Robinson, Simon, Randall, Smith, Auden, Dylan, Anonymous (151); plus Hughes "The Weary Blues" (402)
- M 2/2** IP: Sound and Rhythm (165-209); esp. Hopkins, Yeats (179), Stillman, Brooks, Hughes
- W 2/4** IP: Closed Form (213-235); esp. Millay; Open Form (238-257); Writing About a Poem (608-625); **RA #2 (2 pages) on Shakespeare's "Sonnet 20" (on conference)**
- F 2/6** IP: Symbol (261-270); plus Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (479), Donne "The Flea" (447) and "Valediction" (448), Dickinson "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" (386)
- M 2/9** IP: Myth and Narrative (278-295); esp. Yeats, Wordsworth; plus Hardy "Hap" (467) and "The Convergence of the Twain" (464)
- W 2/11** IP: Poetry and Personal Identity (307-324); plus Harlem Renaissance poets (on conference)
- F 2/13** IP: Herrick "To the Virgins" (473) and Marvell "To His Coy Mistress" (489); **RA #3 (2 pages)**
- M 2/16** IP: Recognizing Excellence (346-371); esp. McKuen, Stafford, Yeats, Shelley, Shakespeare; What is Poetry (376-380)
- W 2/18** IP: Critical Approaches to Literature (629-661)
- F 2/20** SAIW: Appendices (1719-1751)
- M 2/23 Midterm Examination (a little before midterm)**
- W 2/25** SAIW: Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" (326-329) and "Desirée's Baby" (322-325)
- F 2/27** SAIW: Maupassant, "The Necklace" (966-971)
- M 3/1** SAIW: Camus, "The Guest" (211-220)
- W 3/3** SAIW: Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (484-490)
- F 3/5** SAIW: Jackson, "The Lottery" (693-700)
- M 3/8 – F 3/12 SPRING BREAK**
- M 3/15** SAIW: O'Connor, "Everything That Rises" (1117-1127) and "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" (1142-1153)
- F 3/19** SAIW: Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (576-589)
- W 3/17** SAIW: Carter, "The Company of Wolves" (221-229)
- M 3/22** SAIW: Walker, "Everyday Use" (1360-1367)
- W 3/24** SAIW: Allen, "The Kugelmass Episode" (21-29)
- F 3/26** SAIW: Johnson, "Menagerie, a Child's Fable" (754-761)
- M 3/29 Library Day**
- W 3/31** SAIW: Hawthorne, "The Birthmark" (622-632) and "Young Goodman Brown" (633-642)
- F 4/2** SAIW: Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado" (1188-1192)
- M 4/5** O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story," "The Man I Killed," "Ambush," and "Good Form" (on reserve)
- W 4/7** SAIW: James, "The Real Thing" (701-718)
- F 4/9 Research Paper Draft due; Peer Reviews**
- M 4/12** Unsworth, *Morality Play*
- W 4/14** Unsworth; **Research Paper due**
- F 4/16** Unsworth
- M 4/19** *Trifles*
- W 4/21** *Play*
- F 4/23** *Play*
- M 4/26** *Play*
- W 4/28 Reading Day**
- TH 4/29 Final Exam 9:00am-12:00pm**