

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

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

Office Phone: 4-8372

Home Phone: 770-784-8269

Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. 5th ed. Ed. Kirsznner and Mandell

The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 7th ed. Diana Hacker

Much Ado About Nothing. William Shakespeare. Signet edition preferred
a good dictionary

Aug. 31 introduction to course; introduction to poetry

Sept. 06 paragraphs due; poetry

08 preparation for essay

13 draft due; writing workshop

15 revised draft due; writing workshop

16 poetry essay due by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

20 poetry

22 preparation for essay

27 draft due; writing workshop

29 revised draft due; writing workshop

30 poetry essay due by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

Oct. 04 introduction to the research paper

06 library visit; tentative topics for r. p. due

11 Fall Break

13 introduction to fiction; final topics for r. p. due

18 fiction

19 fiction; working bibliography for r. p. due

25 introduction to drama; A Midsummer Night's Dream

28 MND

29 fiction essay due by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

[note-taking for
r. p. to be com-
pleted by 10/31]

Nov. 01 MND; tentative thesis and topic outline for r. p. due

03 MND

08 Much Ado About Nothing; revised thesis and sentence outline for r. p. due

10 MAAN

11 drama essay due by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

15 MAAN

[conferences for r. p. all week; draft due]

17 MAAN

[live performance of Much Ado About Nothing by the Oxford Ensemble of Shakespearean Artists on November 17, 18, and 19; attendance required]

22 poetry; r. p. due by 4:30 p.m. (20%)

THANKSGIVING

29 poetry

31 poetry

Dec. 06 fiction

08 fiction

13 fiction; last day of class; preparation for final exam

14 reading day; poetry or fiction essay due by 4:30 p. m. (15%)

15 final exam for section 10J, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. (10%)

16 final exam for section 11J, 9:00 to 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
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). Absence three will count 1 1/2 points off of your final grade in the course. Absence four will count 2 1/2 points off. Absence five will count 4 points off. Further absences will count 5 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%
fiction essay	15%
drama essay	15%
research paper	20%
final poetry or fiction essay	15%
final exam	10%

The frequency and quality of your contribution to discussion of class-related topics will also impact your final grade. Frequent quality contribution will add up to 2 points to your average in the course. Inadequate contribution may result in the deduction of up to 2 points from that average.

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.