

ENGLISH 181: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE (9 A

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30 TTh 11-12 and by appointment

F2000

Course objectives: This course will teach you how to analyze works of literature from a variety of cultures and historical periods. Your work will include class participation, in-class exercises and quizzes, six essays, a research paper, and a final examination. You will be graded on your ability:

- to write persuasive, clearly-organized essays which demonstrate your mastery of effective argument and your thorough understanding of sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary
- to conduct library research and write a formal research paper in the proper format
- to analyze and explicate literary texts, in both written and oral presentations
- to identify and analyze major literary genres and literary styles
- to identify the biographical, geographical, historical and literary contexts for the works we will read in this course, and to compare and contrast differences between these texts.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Write six critical essays. On the class meeting before writing workshop days, you must bring to class two copies of a complete draft of your essay. I will not accept outlines or incomplete drafts of your essay. On writing workshop days, you should also be prepared to present a brief oral report on your essay.
 - 2) Write a formal research paper.
 - 3) Participate fully in all classroom work.
 - 4) Complete all other class assignments, including written exercises and quizzes.
- There will be no makeups for missed classes.
- 5) Complete the final examination.

Required:

The Bedford Introduction to Literature. 5th edition
Kincaid, Jamaica. Annie John
portfolio folder to hold all of your drafts and papers

Recommended:

The Bedford Handbook
Dictionary (strongly recommended: American Heritage)

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. If you are present but unprepared, I will ask you to leave and count that class as an absence. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower

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your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Tardiness: I expect you to be on time for every class. If you come to class after we have started, it will count as an absence.

Classroom Demeanor: No eating, sleeping or private conversations. I expect you to show respect to me and to your fellow students. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave.

Class Participation: This will count for 15% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented. If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 49-52 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Essays	50%
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	15%
Final Exam	15%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 34 of the Oxford College catalog.

Weekly Outline of Topics to be covered:

Wed August 30	Introduction and Objectives
September 1st	Fiction and Writing About Fiction
Reading: "Young Goodman Brown" 310	
Sept 4	Labor Day—no class
Sept 6	Alice Munro "An Ounce of Cure" 434
Writing About Fiction 40-59	
	Drafts of Essay #1 due in class
Sept 8	Writing Workshop
Sept 11	Essay #1 due. Reading: Andre Dubus "Killings" 81

Sept 13	Poetry and Writing about Poetry
Readings: Sep 8 Poetry's Appeal to the Senses 752-757; be ready to discuss "Poem" 753, "On Being Served Apples" 753 "Root Cellar" 756 "Blackberry Eating" 832	
Sept 15	Figures of Speech 775-779 and "a woman is not a potted plant" 700
Sept 18	"Writing About Poetry" 710-716, "Diction" 717-722 "Dulce et Decorum Est" 763
Sept 20	"Diction and Tone in Four Love Poems" 728-736 and "The Flea" 1090 Draft of Essay 2 due in class
Sept 22	Writing Workshop
Sept 25th	Essay #2 due. Reading: Annie John Chapters 1-2
Sept 27-Oct 6	Annie John
Oct 4	Drafts of Essay #3 due.
Oct 6	Writing Workshop
October 9th	Essay #3 due.
Oct 11-13	Drama
October 16-17	Fall Break—no class
Oct 18	Drama. Draft of Essay #4 due
Oct 20	Workshop
Oct 23-27	The Research Paper. We will work on finding and using sources, outlines, revision during this time. Essay #4 due Oct 23
Oct 30-Nov 3	Writing In Other Disciplines
Nov 6-10	Southern Literature Essay #5 due Nov 10th
Nov 13-20	Contemporary Literature
Research paper due Nov 17	
Nov 22-24	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 27-Dec 1	Poetry
Dec 4-Dec 8	Poetry. Essay #6 due Dec 4th
Dec 11	Review