

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

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Texts:

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

The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 6th ed. Diana Hacker

a good dictionary

Jan. 20 introduction to course; introduction to poetry

25 paragraphs due; poetry

27 preparation for essay

Feb. 01 thesis, outline, and draft due; writing workshop

03 revised thesis, outline, and draft due; writing workshop

04 poetry essay due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office) (10%)

08 poetry

10 preparation for essay

15 preparation for essay continued (thesis and outline due)

17 revised thesis and outline and draft due; writing workshop

21 poetry essay due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office) (15%)

22 introduction to fiction

24 fiction

Mar. 01 fiction

03 fiction

08 fiction

10 introduction to the research paper

11 fiction essay due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office) (15%)

SPRING BREAK: 14-18

21 tentative research paper topics due by 4:30 p.m. (on-line)

22 discussion of research paper topics

24 library visit

28 probable research paper topics due by 4:30 p.m. (on-line)

29 introduction to drama; Hamlet

31 Hamlet

Apr. 01 final research paper topics and working bibliography due (at my office)

[live performance of Hamlet by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Sunday evening, April 3; attendance required]

05 Hamlet

07 Hamlet

08 drama essay due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office) (15%)

11 tentative thesis and topic outline for research paper due by 4:30 (at my office)

12 A Midsummer Night's Dream

14 A Midsummer Night's Dream; revised thesis and sentence outline due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office)

19 Midsummer

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

21 Midsummer

[video or DVD of A Midsummer Night's Dream at dinnertime one evening; pizza provided; attendance required]

25 research paper due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office) (20%)

26 fiction

28 fiction

May 03 last day of class; preparation for final exam

04 reading day; fiction essay due by 4:30 p.m. (at my office) (15%)

05 final exam, Thursday, 9:00 to 12:00 noon (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%	
first fiction essay	15%	
drama essay		15%
research paper	20%	
second 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 deduct 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.

