

English 185 / Spring 2011

10B: 10:40-11:30 MWF / East Village Beta Seminar
12B: 12:50-1:40 MWF / Language Hall 204B
10K: 10:00-11:15 Tues/Thurs / Language Hall 204B
11J: 11:30-12:45 Tues/Thurs / Language Hall 204B

Dr. Brad K. Hawley
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9-10am,
Wednesday 2-4pm, & by appointment

Required Texts:

The Chosen by Chaim Potok. (ISBN 0-449-21344-7). Fawcett. \$7.99.
Which "Aesthetics" Do You Mean?: Ten Definitions by Leonard Koren (0-981-48461-1). Imperfect Publishing. \$16.00
A Contract with God by Will Eisner. (ISBN 0-393-32804-X). W. W. Norton & Company. \$16.95.
Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art by Scott McCloud (ISBN 0-060-97625-X). Harper. \$22.99
Shortcomings by Adrian Tomine (ISBN 1-897-29975-3). Drawn and Quarterly. \$14.95
In Praise of Shadows by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki (ISBN 0-918-17202-0). Leete's Island Books. \$9.95
Batman: Year One by Frank Miller (ISBN 1-401-20752-9). DC Comics. \$14.99
Watchmen by Alan Moore. (ISBN 0-930-28923-4). DC Comics. \$19.99.
Beautiful People by Mitsukazu Mihara (ISBN 1-598-16243-8). TokyoPop. \$9.99
Death Note (Volume One) by Tsugumi Ohba (ISBN 1-421-50168-6). VIZ Media LLC. \$7.99
After Dark by Haruki Murakami. (ISBN 0-307-27873-5). Knopf. \$14.95.

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. Learning to write about texts—whether fiction, poetry, drama, or non-fiction—will prepare you for any academic field you pursue. I teach this course based on two assumptions: 1) Writing improves more quickly in the course of a single semester by writing frequent short essays than by writing only a few longer papers. 2) Only if we are great readers will we become great writers. If you cannot understand in their full complexity the ideas another person has written down for you to read, then you will be unable to develop or write intelligent thoughts of your own. *Unless one reads often, widely, carefully—with intelligent passion and compassionate intelligence—the ability to reason and write well—on which thoughtful, ethical engagement with others depends—at best will be lost and at worst will become corrupt and self-serving.*

Attendance: You will be allowed a maximum of three absences. Your final grade will drop one-third of a letter for each absence after the third. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Tardiness will also affect your grade. If you are consistently late for class, your tardiness will be counted as an absence, and your grade will drop accordingly.

Deadlines for Assignments: I do not accept late papers. Papers must be turned in during class on the due date. Given that there are sometimes emergencies, I will accept one late assignment (except the Research Paper) during the course of the term. I would not advise using this allowance unless absolutely necessary. The late assignment will be graded down one letter grade for each day it is late. I will accept no work after the last day of class.

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. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources. 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. **Do Not Use "The Web" to Prepare for Class:** Other than using an on-line dictionary, do not look anything up on the web. Doing so for any written work in this class is an honor code violation.

Requirements:

- Close reading of the texts	- Research Paper	- Class participation	- One Four-Page Paper
- Writing Exercises and Quizzes	- Six Rhetorical Analyses (RA)	- Final Exam	

Quizzes: Quizzes will be based on assigned readings, previous lectures, and handouts on class policies and writing instructions. They will include short answer and short essay questions. The quizzes will be given in the first five minutes of each class; they cannot be taken after those first five minutes, and there will be no make-up quizzes.

The final grades will be based on the following percentages:

25%	Research Paper	15%	Final Exam	25%	RA #1-6	15%	Four-Page Paper
				20%	Quizzes & Misc. Writing Exercises		

Other Things To Know:

- If I am late, wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Prepare the next day's assignments for the next meeting.
- Throw nothing away. On the off-chance that a professor loses track of your paper grades, your having copies of the papers is the only way to show what grades you have earned in the course.
- Check your e-mail and the class conference on Learnlink at least once a day.
- Do not use computers in class. Writing your class notes, instead of typing them, aids in memory, helps you participate more actively in class discussions, and is less distracting for your peers.

Taking Notes: English 185 is a skills-based course. Therefore, you will need to take notes on writing instructions: I will expect your next writing assignment to show that you've heard and understood the most recent lesson on academic writing.

Rhetorical Analyses (RA): These typed essays must be on the literature assigned for the day on which they are due. If I don't give you a specific question to answer or a specific work to write on, you should focus your attention on one point about that day's reading. I often post the questions for the RA on the learnlink class conference. At the top of your paper you should write your name and title only; start your essay after skipping one line. You should start your RA with a single-sentence thesis followed by two well-developed paragraphs with clear topic sentences (Each topic sentence should be the first sentence of the paragraph). Your RA should be approximately 350 words in length and should include textual support and key quotations from the assigned readings. These RAs are designed to make writing the longer papers easier and more familiar. Due dates: The class will be divided into two groups (A and B), and you will turn in an RA each time your group is listed on the syllabus.

RA Grades: These RA assignments are perhaps the most important ones in this course for improving your writing; therefore, I have a rigorous ten-point grading scale. I would like to see you making solid eights on these assignments. A seven is okay, but you should be doing better. If you are making a six or lower, you should work hard to correct your mistakes. If you are making nines, then you should be extremely pleased. I do give out tens, but very rarely. As I grade them, I first look at your structure: I want to see that you have a clear thesis answering the essay question and that each topic sentence supports the thesis statement. Next, I want to see that each paragraph is fully developed and does not drift from the topic sentence. I then look at the content and your use of textual support, including key quotations. Finally, I take into account writing errors. Note that I value organization and content over an error-free essay.

Advice For Taking English 185 With Dr. Hawley (written by a previous student)

The most valuable advice for students entering English 185 with Dr. Hawley is to follow the syllabus exactly, come to class everyday, take notes during daily class discussions and occasional lectures, check the class conference frequently, take into account all comments made on RAs, and, most importantly, to realize that English class with Dr. Hawley is very different from high school English.

Many teachers claim that students have to keep up on their reading because there will be pop quizzes; however, for most classes there are maybe a handful of quizzes a semester, but Dr. Hawley is not kidding when he says it; students must keep up on their reading and attend class every single day because pop quizzes occur more often than not. Additionally, even if there is not a pop quiz in class, it is important to keep up with the reading and come to class to be able to comprehend class discussions. Students should also take notes during these class discussions and write down anything important Dr. Hawley says because what is said comes up over and over again, appears on quizzes and the exams, and helps in the understanding of the readings. It is also important to check the class conference as often as possible because Dr. Hawley posts many helpful resources and makes posts about assignments and readings. When writing RAs, students should know to build each RA off the previous ones because although the content changes, the main question is usually the same. Taking into account comments made by Dr. Hawley on graded assignments and fixing previous or recurring mistakes ensures improved grades.

However, while there are many tidbits of advice for students taking English 185 with Dr. Hawley, the most important thing is to realize that the class is completely different from any previous high school English class. Many students have come from being the top students in AP or IB English classes and expect English 185 to be a breeze; however, it is much more challenging but at the same time has the potential to be much more rewarding. The class is a lot of work, but if students keep up with the syllabus and do not procrastinate, everything can be accomplished. Unlike high school, where students slept during class and did the bare minimum and still got good grades, English 185 requires class participation and diligent work on assignments.

Email Etiquette

Email has become an important educational tool. Professors use it to talk with one another and with their students and to provide a forum for discussion outside the classroom. Students use it to make plans with other students, to keep in touch with high school friends, and to talk with their professors. On the whole, it is a positive tool. However, the convenience of email can often lead to informality and misunderstanding. For this reason, there are different rules for writing in formal situations—class discussions, letters to professors, applications, and even student discussion lists—that don't necessarily apply when writing to friends and family.

When writing to people in positions of authority—professors, administrators, potential employees, scholarship committees, etc.—you should use a serious tone. Address people properly by their titles, follow rules of grammar and mechanics, and don't use all lower or uppercase letters. (Note that while using all lowercase is informal and should not be used in formal emails, using all uppercase letters is equivalent to yelling at a person and should rarely be used even in informal situations)

Remember that sarcasm often does not come across well over a computer screen, so use it only when you are sure to be understood. Also, avoid using expletives and other slang in formal situations.

Do not assume just because you **can** get in touch with your professors when you want to that you **should**. Take time to think about your message before you send it. Never send a message when you are feeling emotional, particularly if you are upset or angry. Though it is possible and very tempting to fire off an email the moment a question about a course pops into your head, take the time to check whether your questions about assignments or class policies have already been answered in class documents, on the class Learnlink conference, or during a class lecture *before* sending an email to your professor.

Do not send papers and assignments over email unless expressly given permission or asked to do so.

Remember that not everyone checks email at all hours of the night, and understand that a message sent after 8:00pm one evening may not be answered until the next day.

Electronic mail is not a very private communication system. Your messages not only can be printed out, but also can be sent on to others as forwarded messages. Any private message you send potentially can come under public scrutiny; therefore, you should not write anything that would cause you or someone else embarrassment or trouble should your email become public.

Most importantly, remember that even though you cannot see them, you are communicating with real human beings whenever you send email. Do not let the impersonal screen make you forget to be as respectful in your communication as you would be when speaking face to face.

Facebook: Be careful using this website. The news feed alerts a large number of people—including your professors—of your on-line activity. Set your privacy settings so they are as restrictive as possible and use good judgment when posting personal information, pictures, and comments on walls.

SUBJECT VS. THEME

Subject: The main topic of a story. The **Theme** (or **Thesis**) is the central thought in a story — what the author is saying, asserting about the subject matter. The theme must be expressed as a sentence, not as a single word. To elaborate, a *theme* is a central or unifying idea about human experience that grows out of all the other elements in the story. Occasionally the theme may be stated directly by the author or indirectly by one of the characters. More often the theme must be derived from an attempt to understand the complex interaction of forces within the narrative. **SUBJECT=TOPIC and THEME=THESIS OR ARGUMENT CONCERNING SUBJECT/TOPIC**

For the most part, **I use the words *theme*, *thesis*, and *argument* interchangeably to emphasize the connection between non-fiction** (including memoir, biography, journalism, history, law, philosophy, theology, textbooks, and all kinds of academic writing) **and the creative arts**, particularly those focused on the use of words (fiction and poetry) but not excluding those that combine words with other acts of communication (drama, film, lyrics, comics) or often communicate without words at all—they have their own language (photography, sculpture, painting, instrumental music, dance, architecture, woodworking, and a large variety of crafts). **This emphasis is based on my belief that all human uses of language (in its broadest sense) are acts of intentional communication, or RHETORIC.**

MWF Readings and Assignments (Assignments and due dates are subject to change--with notice)

Fri. 1/21	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 1-2	
Mon. 1/24	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 3-4	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 8-18
Wed. 1/26	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 5-7 / RA Group A	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 21-22
Fri. 1/28	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 8-12 / RA Group B	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 24-33
Mon. 1/31	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 13-18	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 35-39
Wed. 2/2	<i>A Contract with God, The Street Singer, The Super, and Cookalein</i>	
Fri. 2/4	Class cancelled due to professor's Grand Jury duty	
Mon. 2/7	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Introduction & Chapters 1-2	
Wed. 2/9	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Chapters 3-4 (Outline due on <i>Understanding Comics</i>)	
Fri. 2/11	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Chapters 5-6 (Lecture Notes due)	
Mon. 2/14	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Chapters 7-9 (Outline due on textbook chapter)	
Tues 2/15	Longer Paper (4-5 pages) due by noon in the box outside my office	
Wed. 2/16	<i>Shortcomings</i> / RA Group A	
Fri. 2/18	<i>In Praise of Shadows</i> Pages 1-30	View the Movie <i>Watchmen</i> by next Friday (2/25)
Mon. 2/21	<i>In Praise of Shadows</i> Pages 30-48	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 40-44
Wed. 2/23	<i>Batman: Year One</i> / RA Group B	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 46-54
Fri. 2/25	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 1-2	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 57-78
Mon. 2/28	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 3-4 / RA Group A	
Wed. 3/2	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 5-6 / RA Group B	
Fri. 3/4	Class cancelled due to professor's Grand Jury duty	
3/7 - 3/11	Spring Break—No Classes	Continue reading <i>The Watchmen</i>
Mon. 3/14	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 7-9	
Wed. 3/16	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 10-12	View the Movie <i>Lost in Translation</i> in time to write RA for 3/28
Fri. 3/18	Read Articles / RA Groups A & B	
Mon. 3/21	First Library Day: Meet in Library / 1-pg overview of 2 Artists (& their specific works) due (5 pts)	
Wed. 3/23	Second Library Day: Meet in Library	
Fri. 3/25	First Annotated Source due (5 points)—place assignment in box outside my office by 3pm	
Mon. 3/28	<i>Lost in Translation</i> / RA Groups A & B	
Wed. 3/30	Third Library Day: Meet in Library / Read Article	
Fri. 4/1	Second Annotated Source Due (5 points)—place assignment in box outside my office by 3pm	
	Class cancelled due to professor's Grand Jury duty	
Mon. 4/4	<i>Beautiful People</i> / RA Group A	
Tues. 4/5	Third Annotated Source Due (5 points)—place assignment in box outside my office by 3pm	
Wed. 4/6	<i>Death Note</i> (Volume One) / RA Group B	
Fri. 4/8	Poetry (handout and/or class conference)	
Mon. 4/11	Initial Thesis Due (5 pts)—place assignment in box outside my office by 3pm	
Wed. 4/13	Poetry (handout and/or class conference)	
Fri. 4/15	Poetry continued / Working Annotated Bibliography Due (sources above + 3 new sources. Place an asterisk in the margin next to the 3 new sources.) (15 Points)	
Mon. 4/18	<i>After Dark</i> Chapters 1-5	
Tues. 4/19	Thesis and One-Page Abstract Due (10 Points)—place assignment in box outside my office by 3pm	
Wed. 4/20	<i>After Dark</i> Chapters 6-11	
Fri. 4/22	<i>After Dark</i> Chapters 12-18	
Mon. 4/25	Complete First Version of Research Paper Due / Peer Reviews (10 Points)	
	Research Paper w/ 1st Version & Peer Reviews due the day of the Final Exam (40 Points)	

Tues/Thurs. Readings and Assignments (Assignments & due dates are subject to change—with notice.)

Thurs. 1/20	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 1-2	
Tues. 1/25	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 3-6	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 8-18
Thurs. 1/27	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 7-12 / RA Group A	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 21-33
Tues. 2/1	<i>The Chosen</i> Chapters 13-18 / RA Group B	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 35-39
Thurs. 2/3	<i>A Contract with God, The Street Singer, The Super, and Cookalein</i>	
Tues. 2/8	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Introduction & Chapters 1-2 (Lecture Notes Due)	
Thurs. 2/10	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Chapters 3-5 (Outline due on <i>Understanding Comics</i>)	
Tues. 2/15	<i>Understanding Comics</i> Chapters 6-9 (Outline due on textbook chapter)	
Wed. 2/16	Longer Paper (4-5 pages) due by noon in the box outside my office	
Thurs. 2/17	<i>Shortcomings</i> / RA Group A	View the Movie <i>Watchmen</i> by next Friday (2/25)
Tues. 2/22	<i>In Praise of Shadows</i>	
Thurs. 2/24	<i>Batman: Year One</i> / RA Group B	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 40-54
Tues. 3/1	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 1-3 / RA Group A	Koren's <i>Aesthetics</i> Pages 57-78
Thurs. 3/3	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 4-6 / RA Group B	
Mon. 3/7-3/11	Spring Break—No Class	Continue reading <i>Watchmen</i> over Spring Break
Tues. 3/15	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 7-9	
Thurs. 3/17	<i>Watchmen</i> Chapters 10-12	
Tues. 3/22	First Library Day: Meet in Library / 1-pg overview of 2 Artists (& their specific works) due (5 pts)	
Thurs. 3/24	Read Articles / RA Groups A & B / View the Movie <i>Lost in Translation</i> in time to write RA for 3/29	
Fri. 3/25	First Annotated Scholarly Source due by Noon in box outside my office (5 pts)	
Tues. 3/29	<i>Lost in Translation</i> / RA Groups A & B	
Thurs. 3/31	Second Library Day: Meet in Library	
Mon. 4/4	Second Annotated Source Due by Noon in the box outside my office (5 pts)	
Tues. 4/5	<i>Beautiful People</i> / RA Group A	
Thurs. 4/7	<i>Death Note</i> (Volume One) / RA Group B	
Fri. 4/8	Third Annotated Scholarly Source Due by Noon in the box outside my office (5pts)	
Tues. 4/12	Poetry (handout and/or see class conference)	
Wed. 4/13	Initial Thesis Due by Noon in the box outside my office (5 pts)	
Thurs. 4/14	Poetry (handout and/or see class conference) / Start reading <i>After Dark</i> Chapters 1-3	
Mon. 4/18	WorkingAnnotated Bibliography Due (15 pts) (sources above + 3 new sources. Please place an asterisk in the margin next to the 3 new sources.)—Place assignment in the box outside my office by 3pm	
Tues. 4/19	<i>After Dark</i> Chapters 4-10	
Wed. 4/20	Thesis and One-Page Abstract Due (10 pts) by 3pm in the box outside my office	
Thurs. 4/21	<i>After Dark</i> Chapters 11-18	
Tues. 4/26	Complete First Version of Research Paper Due / Peer Reviews (10 pts)	
	Research Paper Due with First Version and Peer Reviews (40 pts) the day of the Final Exam	