

English 205: Writing About Poetry

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: 2:30-4:30 M, Tu, W and by appointment

Office Phone: 4-8372

Home Phone: (770)784-8269

Texts:

J. Paul Hunter, ed. The Norton Introduction to Poetry, 6th ed.

any good handbook (for assistance with grammar and mechanics, the principles of composition, and the principles of the research paper)

any good dictionary

Class Schedule:

Jan 18 introduction to the course

Jan 23

Jan 25

Jan 30

Feb 01

Feb 06

Feb 08; first essay due (13%)

Feb 13

Feb 15

Feb 20

Feb 22

Feb 27

Mar 01; second essay due (17%)

Mar 06

Mar 08

SPRING BREAK

Mar 20

Mar 22

Mar 27

Mar 29; third essay due (20%)

Apr 03

Apr 05

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Apr 10  
Apr 12  
  
Apr 17  
Apr 19  
  
Apr 24  
Apr 26  
Apr 27 research paper due (25%)  
  
May 01 last class  
  
May 03 final exam (10%), Thursday, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

### Course Requirements:

The successful completion of English 205 will require the following of each student enrolled in the course:

1. close reading of the poems assigned
2. exercises on these poems
3. discussion of these poems, in class and on-line
4. discussion of ways to write about these and other poems
5. preparation of three shorter critical essays on poems
6. preparation of a substantive research paper (as the culmination of a full-fledged research process) on poems of your choice
7. occasional facilitation of discussion of poems, on your own and/or in collaboration with other students
8. 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 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 presentations and discussions will develop each student's ability to articulate his or her views aloud, as well. And let's hope that you all end up loving poetry-- if you don't already!!!

### 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). If unexcused, absences three and four will count 1 1/2 points each off of your final grade in the course. If unexcused, absences five and six will

count 2 1/2 points each off. Further unexcused absences will count 4 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 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 late or missing homework assignments or in-class quizzes or exercises. If the lateness of such work is not excused, it may not be made-up at all and will receive a zero.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse a missed coffehouse presentation. If a missed presentation must be made-up at a later date without adequate excuse, the grade on the presentation will be reduced one letter grade.

#### Determination of Final Grade:

first essay .....	13%
second essay.....	17%
third essay.....	20%
research paper.....	25%
final exam.....	10%

The final 15% of your grade will reflect the frequency and quality of your contribution to in-class discussion and on-line discussion of class-related topics and also the success with which you facilitate class discussion on those occasions when you are asked to do so.

I will be grading the work you submit to me-- and assigning your final grade in the course-- using the plus/minus grading system.

PLEASE NOTE: The Honor Code will apply to every assignment in this class. Your name on any piece of work will constitute your pledge that you have done that work in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code.