

ENGLISH 181.12A: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

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Office Hours: MW 9:30-11:30, Tuesday 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

Course objectives: This course will teach you how to analyze works of literature from a variety of historical periods. Your work will include class participation, in-class exercises and quizzes, five essays, a research paper, and a final examination. In addition, in this section of English 181 your research paper will be on original research using documents from Emory Archives; you will be asked to learn how to transcribe, code, annotate and research original 19th century documents from Emory College students and faculty.

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, work with original documents, create searchable web pages using the library's format, and write a research paper that provides analysis and background for your documents
- 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 four 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. 7th edition

Comedy of Errors

portfolio folder to hold all of your drafts and papers

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. You have a maximum of four absences, excused or unexcused. You will lose 1/3 of a letter grade for any absence after the fourth; a 3.3 becomes a 3.0.

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 20% 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. Quizzes, in-class assignments, learnlink conference contributions and short writing assignments will all be part of your participation grade.

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 MLA Handbook and *The Bedford Handbook*, both available in the library. **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 101-104 of the Oxford College catalog.

Final Grade breakdown (I use the +/- scale):

Essays	45%
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	15%

Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:

August 29	Introduction and Objectives; Introduction to the Oxford Experience from Siobhan Rivera, Emory senior and library assistant on this project
Aug 31	Fiction and Writing About Fiction Reading: Faulkner "Barn Burning" Writing About Fiction 43-63
Labor Day	
Sept 5	Drafts of Essay #1 due; writing workshop
Sept 7	Oxford Experience project day; reading TBA
Sept 10	"The Literature of the South" 544-555 .

Sept 12	Essay #1 due in class; Reading: "The Literature of the South" 544-555; Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
Sept 14	"A Study of Flannery O'Connor" 438-444; "Revelation" 470-484; "Perspectives on O'Connor" 485-494
Sept 17	Project day
Sept 19	Alice Walker "Everyday Use" 757 and biography of Walker 265-66
Sept 21	project day: visiting speaker
Sept 24	Project work day
Sept 26	Alice Walker "Roselily" 266
Sept 28	Drafts of Essay #2 due: peer reviews
Oct 1	Peer reviews
Oct 3	Essay #2 due; read Butler, "Help Me Find My Spaceman Lover" (handout) and Carver "Popular Mechanics" 344
Oct 5	Project work day
Oct 8	Fall Break
Oct 10	Library day.
Oct 12	Project work day
Oct 15	<u>Comedy of Errors</u>
Oct 17	<u>.Comedy of Errors</u>

October 18-20 Comedy of Errors production. 8PM; matinee 3PM Saturday

Oct 19	<u>Comedy of Errors</u>
Oct 22	<u>Comedy of Errors</u> discussion of performance
Oct 24	<u>Hamlet</u>
Oct 26	<u>Hamlet</u>
Oct 29	<u>Hamlet</u>
Oct 31	<u>Hamlet</u>
Nov 2	Essay #3 due. Reading: Poetry
Nov 5	Poetry TBA
Nov 7	Poetry TBA
Nov 9	Poetry TBA
Nov 12	Project work day
Nov 14	Project work day
Nov 16	Project work day
Nov 19	draft of research paper due: peer reviews

Nov 21-Nov 23

Thanksgiving Break

Nov 26

Poetry TBA

Nov 28

Poetry TBA/ Draft of Essay #4 due, peer reviews

Nov 30

Essay #4 due

Dec 3

research project peer reviews

Dec 5

Final project due; presentations

Dec 7

Presentations

Dec 10

Review; reflective essay and portfolio due