

## English 185: Critical Reading & Writing

Fall 2014  
Dr. Lemons

Office: Few 104  
Hrs: M-F 3-4pm

**Objectives:** To improve abilities in:

- Reading & understanding literary texts
- Written expression
- Oral expression
- Research techniques

**Methods** to achieve objectives:

- 5 papers, 3 pages each
- 1 research project, 6-7 pgs
- In-class Mid-term and Final essays
- class discussion of literary works
- individual class presentations
- writing workshops; one-on-one & group peer editing
- individual conferences with the instructor
- participation in the class Blog

### Guidelines

1. **Texts:** *Perrine's Literature* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.) & *Practical English* (any recent ed.)

Have your own copy of *Perrine's Literature* in class every day. You will be reading aloud from it and doing your own exercises from it.

2. Expectations for **Attendance:** Be in class every day, prepared to contribute. We learn from each other through spontaneous discussion; that's why it is impossible to "make up" a missed class. Each absence results in 1 point off the final grade. After the first 5 absences, each additional absence is 2 points off. BUT, you may miss 2 classes without penalty—use them for illness, family matters, or whatever is important. There are no excused absences beyond these 2. If you are **late** more than 3 times, each additional tardy will be half a point off your final grade. These policies recognize both first that students have to be absent sometimes and second that no group works without requirements. Doctor's notes are usually not accepted; if you are **ill** more than 3 days in a row contact the Office of Academic Services as soon as you can, so they can alert your teachers.

2. The Mid Term and Final Essay **Exams**, covering readings and discussion, will be in-class essays answering one discussion question, graded for writing and content. The Mid Term covers the first half of class; the Final, the second half. The Final is your opportunity to show improvement.

3. The 5 **Papers** are 750 words--3 pgs.--although the first paper may be 2 pgs. A **Workshop Day** will precede the final due date; complete rough drafts are due on Workshop Days, and having no complete draft will reduce your actual paper grade by one letter. Papers will be submitted on Blackboard or by email. Late final papers lose one letter grade per day, beginning at the time due. After the first paper is returned, make an appointment with me to look at your revisions and discuss what you need to work on.
4. The **Honor Code** is in effect for all your work in this class and every class. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. You must submit your own work, not another's, and if you use material other than your own (from the internet, books, etc.) that material must be acknowledged with citations.
5. **Read** each story twice and every poem several times--you will understand what is going on and enjoy the reading more, as well as be more confident about expressing yourself in class. Assignments, corrections of papers, and quizzes are the work we do in class on a particular day; they cannot be made up if you miss class or are late. I will drop the lowest 2 quiz grades. **Quizzes** are quick, easy, mostly factual, and frequent.
6. The **Research Project** (6-7 pages) will include work on a literary topic, thesis, paragraphs, outline, notes, and drafts, and the paper itself. Guidelines and requirements will be distributed. Your paper should be an interesting, exciting, project for you. We will meet in the library 1 or 2 days for research orientation.
7. Class **Participation** includes attendance, active listening, frequent oral contribution, and participation on the Blog. Each student will **present** one poem from the text to the class in the second half of the semester. Rules for the **Blogs 1 & 2**: 6 entries and 9 comments are required for each blog; blog 1 will be for roughly the first half of the course and blog 2 for the second half. No more than one entry and comment per day will count, but you may make as many entries/comments you like any time you like. Entries are paragraph-long thoughts about the readings or discussions. Comments are shorter and respond to what other classmates have written in the blog. Entries and comments may be about the assignment or about anything having to do with class. Grammar, punctuation, etc., don't count for this assignment—write what and how you want.
8. **Grading Policy**: Papers 40%, Final 15%, Research Project 15%, Mid Term 10%, Homework & Quizzes 10%, Participation 10%. Keep track of your own grades. I do not average anything until the final has been graded.
9. Keep your **Syllabus** handy and follow it. It will be on the class **Blackboard** site. Changes will be announced in class and on BB ahead of time. Check BB often for announcements, updates, handouts and the Blog.
10. College students and teachers behave in a **Professional** manner: meeting deadlines, following guidelines, preparing ahead, cooperating with classmates, and taking the initiative to contribute positively. The class will be more fun, interesting, and helpful to you now and in the future the closer we come to these standards.

## Schedule of Assignments: English 185: Fall 2014

Dates indicate when assignments are *due*. Authors' names, titles, and "Poetry" all refer to *Perrine's Literature*. PEH stands for *Practical English Handbook*. Changes (nothing will be added; some things may be dropped) will be announced in class and on the Blog.

**\*Note:** Read the introductory material *for each new section* of stories or poems: the first one, before the first reading, is "Reading The Story," p. 61-67. The others are marked in the syllabus below.

Aug 27 Introduction  
Aug 29 Connell & "Reading the Story,"  
p 61\*  
Sep 3 Wolff & PEH Chapter 43  
Sep 5 "Plot & Structure" (104), Greene  
Sep 8 Munro  
Sep 10 Workshop: Complete Draft Due  
Sep 12 Lahiri; Paper 1 due at 4 pm  
Sep 15 "Characterization" 161; Walker  
Sep 17 Mansfield  
Sep 19 Baldwin  
Sep 22 "Theme & Welty  
Sep 24 Workshop: Complete Draft Due  
Sep 26 "Point of View" & Cather; Paper  
2 due at 4 pm  
Sep 29 Jackson  
Oct "Symbol," (300) & Lawrence  
Oct Workshop: Complete Draft Due  
Oct Hawthorne; Paper 3 due at 4 pm  
Oct Marquez  
Oct 13-14 Fall Break  
Oct Camus  
Oct Thesis and paragraph of Research  
Paper due  
Oct Workshop: Complete Draft Due

Oct Updike; Paper #4 Due at 4 pm  
Oct Library Day  
Oct Poetry p. 657-665  
Oct Poetry p. 666-677, Outline of  
Research Paper Due  
Nov Poetry, cont.  
Nov Poetry, cont  
Nov Poetry, cont  
Nov Poetry, cont. Paper #5 due at 4 pm  
Nov Library Day  
Nov Poetry, presentations  
Nov Poetry, presentations  
Nov Poetry, presentations  
Nov Poetry, presentations (Draft of  
Research Paper Due)  
Nov Trifles  
Nov Research Paper Due  
Nov 27-28 Thanksgiving break  
Dec Time Flies  
Dec Glass Menagerie  
Dec Glass Menagerie  
Dec Catch Up Day, Paper #6 Due 4 pm  
Dec 8 Reading Day  
Dec 17 Final Exam 2-5 pm