

COURSE OUTLINE

**English 181 - Writing About Literature**

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Fall 2007 Semester

**I. Objectives of the Course**

Through class participation, the close reading of assigned literary works, in-class writing exercises and tests, six formal essays (800-1000 words), and a final examination, the student will be graded on his/her ability:

- A. To organize and develop ideas through the use of specific information.
- B. To construct outlines illustrating that sufficient material has been gathered and organized according to the laws of unity, emphasis and coherence.
- C. To demonstrate orally and in writing a command of style, sentence structure, paragraph development, grammar, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.
- D. To write college-level essays which show a mastery of the fundamentals of effective expository and argumentative writing.
- E. To demonstrate a command of library research skills and proper research paper format.
- F. To define the essential characteristics of each of the major literary genres: poetry, short story, novel, and play.
- G. To analyze and explicate a literary text.
- H. To define the larger structures of the works to be read during the course, the various problems these works present, the literary-historical background against which they appear, and the styles in which they are written.

**II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course**

- A. Brief unannounced quizzes which will be factual in nature. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Possible exercises in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary. There are no make-ups for missed exercises.
- C. Several in-class writing assignments, tests, and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- D. Six formal critical essays (800-1000 words) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.

**II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course (continued)**

- E. A research paper (8-10 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a research paper is late.
- F. A final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- G. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

### III. **Grading Practices**

The grade will be determined by an evaluation of the entire semester's work, with special emphasis on fulfillment of course objectives. Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes, exercises and in-class writing	15%
Six essays	50%
Research paper	15%
Final examination	15%

### IV. **Attendance Policy**

- A. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is to the student's distinct benefit to be present in class, and the student will be held responsible for any assignments made when he/she is absent. After two (2) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.
- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. This record will not be changed at a later date.

### V. **Textbooks:**

Thinking and Writing About Literature, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. Michael Meyer  
A Comedy of Errors, Shakespeare. Dover Edition.

### VI. **Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered**

August 29-31	Fiction & Writing About Fiction
September 4-7	Fiction <b>Paragraph Due</b>
September 10-14	Poetry & Writing About Poetry <b>1<sup>st</sup> Essay Due</b>
September 17-21	Poetry
September 24-28	Drama <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Essay Due</b>

### VI. **Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered** (continued)

October 1-5	Drama
October 8-9	Fall Break
October 10-12	Fiction <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Essay Due</b>
October 15-19	Poetry
October 22-26	The Research Paper <b>4<sup>th</sup> Essay Due</b>
October 29-Nov. 2	Drama
November 5-9	Drama <b>5<sup>th</sup> Essay Due</b>
November 12-16	Poetry <b>6<sup>th</sup> Essay Due</b> (in-class)
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Recess
November 26-30	Poetry <b>Research Paper Due</b>
December 3-7	Poetry
December 11	Last Class
<b>December 18, 9 am-12noon</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>

## VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are the following:

Monday - Friday - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

## VIII. Honor Code

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what plagiarism is.