

English 181: Writing About Literature

Dr. Gretchen Schulz

Office: 103 Humanities Hall

Office Hours: M and W afternoons and by appointment

Office Phone: 4-8372

Home Phone: 770-784-8269

Texts:

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Ed. Kirsznner and Mandell

The Bedford Handbook for Writers. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Diana Hacker

The Tempest. William Shakespeare. Signet edition preferred

Frankenstein. Mary Shelley. Any edition should do.

a good dictionary

Aug. 28 introduction to course; introduction to fiction

Sept. 02 paragraphs due; fiction

04 fiction

09 draft materials due; writing workshop

11 draft materials due; writing workshop

12 first fiction essay due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (10%)

16 fiction

18 fiction

23 introduction to drama: A Midsummer Night's Dream

25 A Midsummer Night's Dream

[live performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream by the Atlanta Shakespeare Company on Thursday, September 25, at 7:30; attendance required; should you need to attend on an alternate date the only options are Thursday, September 18, or Sunday, September 21]

30 A Midsummer Night's Dream

Oct. 02 introduction to the research paper

03 second fiction essay due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (15%)

07 library visit; preparation for the r. p.

09 Macbeth; tentative topics for the r.p. due (in class)

[individual appointments with library staff, from 10/7 through 10/16]

FALL BREAK

15 final topics for the r. p. due (on-line)

16 Macbeth

17 working bibliography for the r.p.due (hard copy, at my office)

21 Macbeth

23 Macbeth

24 drama essay due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (15%)  
[attendance at the Oxford production of Sylvia—optional for extra credit; October 23, 24, 25]

[note-taking for the r. p. to be completed by October 28]

28 fiction; tentative thesis and topic outline for the r. p. due (in class)  
30 fiction

Nov. 03 revised thesis and sentence outline for the r.p. due (hard copy, at my office)  
04 fiction  
06 fiction

10 essay on drama or fiction due by 4:30 p.m. at my office (15%)  
11 introduction to poetry  
13 poetry

[conferences for the r. p. through November 21; drafts due]

18 poetry  
20 poetry

[attendance at the OESA production of Macbeth required, on November 20, 21, or 22]

25 poetry; r.p. due at my office by 4:30 p.m. (20%)

#### THANKSGIVING

Dec. 02 poetry  
04 poetry

09 last day of class; preparation for final exam

10 Wednesday: reading day; poetry essay due at my office by 4:30 p. m. (15%)

16 Tuesday: final exam for 10J, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. (10%)

17 Wednesday: final exam for 11J, 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. (10%)

#### Course Requirements:

The successful completion of English 181 will require the following of each student enrolled in the course:

1. close reading of the literary texts assigned
2. exercises on these texts
3. discussion of these texts
4. discussion of ways to write about these texts
5. preparation of five critical essays on these texts
6. preparation of a substantive research paper (as the culmination of a full-fledged research process)

7. 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 skills deemed particularly important in liberal arts education, namely 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 discussion will develop each student's ability to articulate his or her views aloud, as well. All of these skills should prove enormously useful in the rest of the student's academic endeavors and in his or her career, and all of them should enrich the student's life immeasurably, too.

#### 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). Further absences, if unexcused, will involve a penalty. Absence three will count 1 1/2 points off of your final grade in the course. Absence four will count 2 1/2 points off. Absence five will count 4 points off. Further absences will count 5 points off each.

Failure to attend any required out-of-class event (like the Shakespeare play we'll be seeing) will also count as an absence from class. And students who have missed such an event will have to do some make-up work or suffer the penalty of deduction from their final grade.

Only significant illness, major emergency, or required religious observance will excuse any 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 late out-of-class work. 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 a missing draft (and/or other required preliminary material for an essay or research paper). Should a draft (and/or other required preliminary material) not be ready when it is due, the paper will be penalized a letter grade (or a portion of a letter grade) when it is handed in.

Only significant illness or major emergency will excuse missing in-class work such as quizzes or exercises. If the missing work is not excused, it may not be made up and will receive a zero.

#### Determination of Final Grade:

first fiction essay	10%
second fiction essay	15%
drama essay	15%
drama or fiction essay	15%
research paper	20%
poetry essay	15%
final exam	10%

The frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussion will also impact your final grade. Frequent quality contribution will add up to 2 points to your average in the course. Inadequate contribution may result in the deduction of up to 2 points from that average.

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

#### The Honor Code:

The Honor Code will apply to every assignment in this class. Your name on each assignment will constitute acknowledgement that you have done that assignment in accordance with the dictates of the Honor Code.