OXFORD COLLEGE of Emory University

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, 8th edition, ed. Michael Meyer

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

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

VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered (continued)
October 1-5   Drama
October 8-9   Fall Break
October 10-12 Fiction
            3rd Essay Due
October 15-19 Poetry
October 22-26 The Research Paper
            4th Essay Due
October 29-Nov. 2 Drama
November 5-9  Drama
            5th Essay Due
November 12-16 Poetry
            6th Essay Due (in-class)
November 21-23 Thanksgiving Recess
November 26-30 Poetry
            Research Paper Due
December 3-7  Poetry
December 11  Last Class
December 18, 9 am-12noon FINAL EXAMINATION

VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room l05, 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.