ENGLISH 181.1J: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

Dr. Christine Loflin  
Office: Humanities 204  
Phone: 4-4682  
Learnlink e-mail: Christine Loflin  
Office Hours: WF 10-11:30, T Th 2:30-3:30 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, three essays, six response papers, a research paper, and a final examination.

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 and write a research paper which shows a command of research skills, argumentative writing and proper research format
- 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 two critical essays, 3-5 pages long. You will need to bring a complete draft of your essay for each writing workshop day. 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 six short (1-2 page) response papers.
3) Write a formal research paper, 6-10 pages long.
4) Participate fully in all classroom work.
5) Complete the final examination.

Required:
- Hemingway In Our Time
- Lahiri Interpreter of Maladies
- Shakespeare A Midsummer Night’s Dream
- Milosz A Book of Luminous Things
- Rushdie Haroun and the Sea of Stories

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 103-106 of the Oxford College catalog.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response papers:</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:

Jan 15      Introduction and Objectives; Storytelling

Jan 20      Fiction and writing about fiction: letter or diary entry due

Jan 22-29   Rushdie Haroun and the Sea of Stories

   Jan 22   First 1-2 page response due
   Jan 29   Second 1-2 page response due

Feb 3-12    Hemingway In Our Time

Feb 5       Third 1-2 page response due
Feb 17  First essay drafts due: Workshop Day

Feb 19-Mar 3 Poetry; readings TBA
Feb 19  Revised Essay 1 due
Mar 3  Fourth 1-2 page response due

Mar 5  Midterm

Spring Break

Mar 17-26 Lahiri Interpreter of Maladies
Mar 24  Fifth response paper due
Mar 26th Peer reviews: draft of Essay 2 due in class

Mar 31-Apr 2 Poetry TBA
Mar 31  Revised Essay 2 due

Apr 7  Complete first version of research paper due/peer reviews

Apr 9-16 A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Apr 16  Midsummer sixth response paper due

Apr 21 Versions of A Midsummer Night’s Dream (films)
Apr 21  Research paper with first version and peer reviews due

Apr 23  E-literature

Apr 27  Review for final

Final Exam Friday May 1st