ENGLISH 181.1J: WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

Dr. Christine Loflin
Office: Humanities 204
Phone: 4-4682
Learnlink e-mail: Christine Loflin
Office Hours: MTWTh 10-11 and by appointment

Course objectives: This course will teach you how to analyze works of literature in a variety of genres. In our reading of Hemingway, Woolf, Lahiri and other writers we will focus on two themes: the construction of identity and the purpose of education. 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 five 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 all other class assignments, including written exercises and quizzes.
There will be no makeups for missed classes.
6) Complete the final examination.

Required:
Adiga The White Tiger
Hemingway In Our Time
Lahiri Interpreter of Maladies
Woolf A Room of One’s Own and Three Guineas

And a portfolio folder to hold all of your drafts and papers
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 three absences, excused or unexcused; if you become so ill that you need to miss more than a week and a half of class, we will need to make arrangements for you to catch up your work. In that case, I will need some kind of documentation of your illness.

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 the Oxford College catalog.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response papers:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:**

Jan 14  Introduction and Objectives; Storytelling; in-class writing assignment
Jan 18  Martin Luther King holiday
Jan 19  Modernism and Identity: Reading “On The Quai at Smyrna” from *In Our Time.*
Jan 21  Reading: *In Our Time.* **First 1-2 page response due**
Jan 26      Reading In Our Time.
Jan 28      In Our Time; Second 1-2 response paper due

Feb 2      Virginia Woolf short stories (handout)
Feb 4      The role of education: Woolf A Room of One’s Own
Feb 9-11   A Room of One’s Own Feb 11: Third 1-2 page response due

Feb 25     Essay #1 draft workshop day

Mar 2      Revised Essay #1 due with self-analysis of strengths/weaknesses in writing skills
Mar 4      Midterm

March 8-12  Spring Break

Mar 16     Role of education: Three Guineas
Mar 18     Three Guineas; Malcolm X (handout)
Mar 23     Fourth response paper due
Mar 25     Library research day

Mar 30-Apr 1 Poetry TBA
Apr 1      Research proposals and three sources due

Apr 6      Adiga The White Tiger
Apr 8      Annotated Bibliography due
Apr 13     Research paper workshop day
Apr 15     The White Tiger

Apr 20     Research paper due
Apr 22     Fifth response paper due with portfolio
Apr 27     Review for final