

English 480: Junior Seminar

Syllabus * Fall 2003 * San Francisco State University
Section 3 TTH 15:35 – 16:50 * HUM 283 * Code: 13306
Prerequisites: Eng 214 or equivalent

Instructor: Dr. Mark Calkins

Email: mcalkins@sfsu.edu

Office: HUM 355

Office Hours: TTH 1:30 – 3:00 and by appt.

Office Phone Number: (415) 338-7462

Dept. Office: HUM 289

Dept. Phone Number: (415) 338-2264

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to a number of terms, issues, critical methods, and assumptions that you will encounter while studying literature, particularly but not exclusively British and North American literature. We will discuss some skills every "English major" should possess, such as "close reading," as well as some contemporary theories about and methods of interpreting literature.

Our main goal for the course is to discuss, question, and practice the conventions or writing literary critical essays at the university level. Discussions of the writing process and peer revision sessions are built into the course structure, making your writing one of the texts of this course. The course is in some sense a workshop, a community of readers and writers in dialogue with each other, as well as in dialogue with the published authors we are reading.

Required Books & Materials

Barnet, Sylvan and William E. Cain. A Short Guide to Writing About Literature. 9th ed. New York: Longman, 2002.

Culler, Jonathan. Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997/2000.

Eliot, George. Middlemarch. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Shakespeare, William. The Tempest. New York: Penguin, 1999.

Wolf, Virginia. Mrs. Dalloway. New York: Harcourt, 1925.

Wordsworth, William, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Lyrical Ballads. Houghton Mifflin: 2002

Blue Books (large) as needed

Recommended Books & Materials

- A style manual of your choice
- A good pocket dictionary, such as The American Heritage Dictionary
- A miniature stapler

Course Requirements & Grade Distribution

Grading: All grades will be recorded as percentages until the final grade converts to a letter grade equivalent: A+ = 97, A = 93, A- = 90, B+ = 87, B = 83, B- = 80, C+ = 79, C = 77, C- = 70, D+ = 67, D = 63, D- = 60, F = 0. Both the instructor and the university use plus and minus grading.

INFORMAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: 30%

DISCUSSION WORK: 30%

FINAL PAPER: 40%

Course Policies

Second Day Drop: If you do not attend class on the second day of class I will automatically drop you from the class. If for some reason you cannot attend class on the second day, you must tell me by the end of the first class session.

Attendance: While I cannot grade you on attendance, since this is a workshop-style class, missing class will of consequence adversely affect your grade for Discussion Work.

Lateness: Arriving late disrupts class. Class begins according to the time on the clock on the classroom wall. While I cannot grade you on tardiness, your punctuality can only serve to "color" the impression I have of you as a student if and when your grade is borderline between one grade point and a higher one. If you will regularly be unable to get from one part of campus to class within the allotted time, please see me before the third week of classes.

Late Work: All work must be handed in by the end of class on the day they are due; if you submit a paper via e-mail, it must be time-stamped no later than the time that class ends. I do not accept papers turned into the Department Office or slipped under my office door. If you turn in your paper late it will be marked down one full grade point, and no papers will be accepted after the next class period.

Make-up work following an absence: Each student is responsible for obtaining class notes and assignment details. In-class informal writing assignments cannot be made up for.

Use of outside assistance/Plagiarism zero-tolerance policy: Copying all, or in part, another's material and presenting it as one's own is a grave matter. It is easy for an instructor to detect bought, "borrowed" or mass-produced papers. Discrepancies in style and mechanics will be revealed in the comparisons between in-class and out-of-class efforts. Additionally, tutors may help with prewriting and assist with basic skills, but should *not* be altering structure, inserting their own ideas or be functioning as proofreaders who correct all grammatical errors.

- EVIDENCE OF PLAGIARISM (or cheating on a test) WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT (or test).

Cell phones, food & drink: Please make sure your cell phone or pager is turned off before you enter class, and please do not bring any food or drink into the classroom. Bottled water is permitted, however.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

LB = Lyrical Ballads T = The Tempest MD = Mrs. Dalloway M = Middlemarch
SI = Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction

WEEK	DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK ASSIGNED
1	8/28		SI pp. 1-55
	9/2		SI pp. 56-81
2	9/4		SI pp. 82-132
	9/9		T all
3	9/11		
	9/16		LB pp. 21-43
4	9/18		LB pp. 43-64
	9/23		LB pp. 64-85
5	9/25		LB pp. 85-101
	9/30		LB pp. 101-115
6	10/2		MD pp. 3-64
	10/7		MD pp. 64-102
7	10/9		MD pp. 102-165
	10/14		MD pp. 165-194
8	10/16		M Prelude & Book 1
	10/21		
9	10/23		M Book 2
	10/28		
10	10/30		M Book 3
	11/4		
11	11/6		M Book 4
	11/1		
12	11/13		M Book 5
	11/18		
13	11/20		M Book 6
	11/25		
14	11/27	Thanksgiving Holiday	M Book 7
	12/2		M Book 8
15	12/4		
	12/9		
16	12/11		
	NO FINAL		