

ENGLISH 2M12BF (0752)

REQUIRED TEXTS.

Course Packet. (Far Better Service on Hillel Place)

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Young Goodman Brown and Other Short Stories* (Dover Thrift).*

Ibsen, Henrik. *Hedda Gabler* (Dover Thrift).*

Melville, Herman. *Bartleby and Benito Cereno* (Dover Thrift).*

Poe, Edgar A. *The Goldbug and Other Tales* (Dover Thrift).*

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference* (Bedford/St. Martin's).**

* I ordered these books at Shakespeare & Company on Hillel Place.

** The handbook is available both at Barnes & Noble (Boylan Hall basement) and Shakespeare & Company, at a discounted price.

SCHEDULE OF THEMES AND READINGS.

M, Jan. 28

Introduction

W, Jan. 30

Theme #1: In-class essay

M, Feb. 4

Thurber, "The Greatest Man in the World" (Course Packet/CP)

Goodwin, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys* (CP)

W, Feb. 6

Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (CP)

M, Feb. 11

Theme #2: Role (minimum: 600 words)

W, Feb. 13

Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost* (CP)

W, Feb. 20

Melville, "Benito Cereno"

M, Feb. 25

Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"

Research paper topic due

W, Feb. 27

Theme #3: Impact of the individual (minimum: 600 words)

M, Mar. 3

Library visit (Archives and Special Collections, Room 130)

W, Mar. 5

Poe, "Imp of the Perverse" (CP), "The Tell-Tale Heart,"

M, Mar 10

Preliminary bibliography of research paper due

Poe, "Fall of the House of Usher," "Ligeia"

W, Mar. 12

"The Black Cat"

Research journal due

M, Mar. 19

Working bibliography for research paper due

Theme #4: In-class essay (on Melville & Poe)

(Over)

W, Mar. 26

Darby, "How Organizations Socialize Individuals into Evildoing" (CP)

Your question/topic/thesis for research paper due

M, Mar. 31

Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (CP)

W, Apr. 2

Didion, *The Year of Magical Thinking* (CP)

Notes for research paper due

M, Apr. 7

Theme#5: Impact of external force (minimum: 600 words)

W, Apr. 9

Thoreau, *Walden* (CP)

Plan/outline for research paper due

M, Apr. 14

Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"

Draft of research paper due (3-4 pages acceptable)

W, Apr. 16

Hawthorne, "Rappaccini's Daughter," "The Birthmark"

M, Apr. 28 Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"

Theme 6 & 7: Research paper due (7-8 pages)

W, Apr. 30

Theme #8: In-class essay (on Hawthorne and Thoreau)

M, May 5

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*, Act I

W, May 5

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*, Act II

Theme #9: Values (minimum: 600 words)

M, May 12

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*, Act III

W, May 14

Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*, Act IV

10:30-12:30, M, May 19

Theme #10: Final (on Hedda Gabler)

Last day to hand in late and revised papers:

Noon, Wednesday, May 28

E-Mail:

LMELANI@LYCOS.COM

Course Website:

<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/english2>

POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGLISH 2

CONTENT OF COURSE.

The theme of this course is “The Individual: Master of Fate or Victim of Circumstance?” In exploring this theme, we discuss videos (shown in class), short stories, essays, newspaper articles, and anything else that seems relevant to the class as the semester goes along.

RELATIONSHIP OF ENGLISH 2 AND CORE STUDIES 2.2.

Your Core course, The shaping of the Modern World, is concerned with the “ever-multiplying connection across national and regional boundaries” (Core Studies 2.2 syllabus). At first glance, your Core course with its focus on globalization and this one with its focus on the individual might seem disconnected, but in fact both are concerned with “ever-multiplying connection.” The difference is in the expression of that “ever-multiplying connection”: in Professor Rawson’s course, you are exploring connection at the *global* level, and in this course we are exploring connection at the *individual* level.

GOALS OF COURSE.

- Explore the theme of the individual and individualism in readings and in writing essays.
- Enhance critical thinking skills (analyze ideas, draw inferences, make connections, and develop abstractions).
- Enhance critical reading skills (identify the central idea of texts; write summaries of texts; recognize themes, points of view, tone, and writer’s purpose).
- Write essays which are well organized, coherent, persuasively reasoned, using a reasonably correct prose, appropriate, varied diction and syntax.
- Gain proficiency in the process of conducting research and writing a research paper.
- Enjoy the readings.

THEME REQUIREMENTS.

Out-of-class essays are a minimum of 600 words. The research paper, which is a minimum of 7-8 pages, will count as a double theme.

All out-of-class themes must be word processed and double-spaced, in either Times Roman or Ariel, 11 or 12 points, with 1 inch margins. Number your pages, and be sure they are in the correct order.

Fold the theme in half, lengthwise. Write your name, the assignment, and the date the essay is being handed in on the outside of the folded theme, near the top.

EVALUATING THEMES.

I evaluate themes using four major criteria: (1) Expression or prose style (2) Content or ideas and details (3) Structure or organization (4) Grammatical correctness. For my specific grading standards, please consult my handout “Standards for Evaluating Writing.”

Students are responsible for doing out-of-class exercises and reading to learn to eliminate these errors from their writing. I am available to help students with this effort.

USING THE COMPUTER.

This section of English 2 requires you to use a computer. You must have an e-mail account; sometimes I e-mail the class or individual students.

REWRITING.

Out-of-class themes may be **rewritten** and handed in for regrading. The rewrite may consist either of a revision of the theme already handed in or of a completely new theme, on a different topic. If the grade for

the revised paper is higher, I use that grade in computing the final course grade; if it is lower, I use the original grade. (Revision consists of rethinking and/or rewriting sentences, passages, paragraphs, or even the entire essay.) A theme which merely copies my corrections will not be re-graded, because copying is not revising. Please hand in both the original theme and the rewrite; indicate which assignment the rewrite is fulfilling.

To rewrite an in-class theme, make an appointment with me to write another theme on a different topic.

ATTENDANCE.

Students are expected to be on time. Students with more than 5 absences will fail the course.

FINAL GRADES.

Students must hand in all essays *and* all assignments that build to the research paper to be eligible to pass the course.

Students' final grades in the course take improvement into account. For instance, if your grades improve from *C* to *A-* on the last several themes, the final course grade is *A-*. Otherwise the grades of all themes will be averaged, with one exception: if all the in-class themes are *F* or otherwise not passing, the final grade will be *F* or *NC*.

The final grades in English 2 are *A+*, *A*, *A-*, *B+*, *B*, *B-*, *C+*, *C*, *C-*, *NC*, and *F*. A grade of *NC* (No Credit) means that all the assignments were handed in but that a passing level was not achieved on the class themes; a grade of *NC* does not affect overall grade point average. A grade of *F* means a student did not hand in all the assignments and failed the course. This grade is computed in the overall average.

Students who receive final grades of *NC* or *F* must repeat English 2. Students may take English 2 two times.

Please turn off your cell phone. If there is an emergency which requires you to keep your phone on, please leave the room to answer your phone.