

**ENGL 382: History of Literature in English II**

**Section 10: W 5-5:50pm, Cabell 122**  
**Section 17: F 3-3:50pm, Cabell 245**

**Amanda French**  
**alf7e@virginia.edu**  
**Office Hours: M 11-1 and T 4-5, Bryan 231**

**REQUIREMENTS**

Exam #1--Friday, February 2; 10-10:50am, Wilson 301 ..... 15% of final grade  
Exam #2--Friday, March 27; 10-10:50am, Wilson 301 ..... 15% of final grade  
Final Exam--Wednesday, May 6; 9am-12pm, Wilson 301 ..... 30% of final grade

13 Writing Assignments--every week, by 6pm on Saturday, a 250-350 word (one-page) writing assignment turned in to the whole section over e-mail..... 25% of final grade

Participation..... 15% of final grade

**GROUPS**

We will form 4 reading groups of 4-5 people each. Your groups will meet (without me!) once a week, when and where you decide. This way you can get to know each other, help each other, and talk more about the readings. At the end of the semester I'll ask everyone to rate their groupmates' level of participation, and these ratings will be part of everyone's course participation grade.

**ATTENDANCE**

Good attendance is crucial, because our section meets only fourteen times. The attendance policy is therefore strict.

If you are absent from section twice, your course grade will be lowered **an entire letter grade** (e.g. from a B- to a C-). If you are absent three times, you must either withdraw from or fail the course.

In other words, you have exactly one "free" absence. Save this for emergencies **only**.

If you are more than ten minutes late to class, it counts as half an absence.

**DUE DATES**

Late writing assignments will not be accepted.

**PLAGIARISM**

If you turn in work that is not your own, you will automatically fail the assignment, you will probably fail the course, and you might get expelled from the University. You'd be surprised how easy it is for me to tell when you plagiarize. Don't risk it.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper should be an explication or close reading of a poem or short passage of prose (a paragraph or two) from the week's reading. The emphasis is on carefully examining language.
2. Type the poem or passage you will be discussing at the top of your paper. Copy it **exactly**. This exercise will help you concentrate on the text.
3. An explication answers the basic question "What does this mean?"
4. For a close reading, you might ask yourself one or all of the following questions: How does a particular word or group of words contribute to the meaning? How does a particular image or group of images contribute to the meaning? Why is the piece structured in precisely this way?
5. To help ensure that your e-mail submissions are mechanically and stylistically polished, please write them in a word-processing application, then cut and paste into e-mail. The whole paper should be 250-350 words, not counting the copied text typed at the top of your paper. This is equivalent to about a page of typed double-spaced writing, or about 2 full screens on e-mail.
6. Send your assignment to the class e-mail list any time between lecture on Wednesday and 6pm every Saturday. (This includes the midterm exam weeks.) Don't repeat what the lecturer said or what we've discussed in class; these must be **original**.
7. For the subject line of your message, please use the author's last name and part or all of the title of the piece. Example: Bradstreet, Meditations.
8. If you want to discuss the same poem or passage of prose as someone who has already posted their paper to the list, you must either take an entirely new approach or construct your paper as a response to the first person. (Be sure to read your e-mail before you begin writing your paper!)

I'll print these papers out, comment on them, grade them, and return them to you. When the course ends I'll average the 13 letter grades; the resulting grade will be worth 25% of your course grade.

You don't have to read your classmates' contributions, but it would be definitely educational and probably interesting for you to do so. It would also be a good way to review for the exams.

## GRADING CRITERIA FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Interest--Is this a new or interesting interpretation of the piece? Has the student seen things in the piece that are not obvious at first reading? Does the student connect this text to other texts, to historical circumstances, or to current issues / philosophies / cultural formations?
2. Accuracy--Does the student understand the piece as a whole? Does the student understand words within the piece? Is the student familiar with the historical and / or literary context? Is the text copied accurately? Does the student use literary vocabulary correctly?