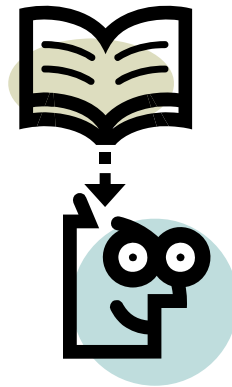


ENG 200 H1

WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE

SPRING 2008

ORLANDO HALL, ROOM 105, THURSDAYS 4:00-6:40



"Occasionally I amuse myself by imagining headlines that would trumpet the ordinary events of my day." Daniel Pecan Cambridge from *The Pleasure of My Company* by Steve Martin

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ADVISEMENT HOURS: Before/After class and by special appointment. If you need to meet with me, just let me know and we will work out a place/time.

Note: You are responsible for reading the entire syllabus. If you have any questions, please ask me. This syllabus may be amended at anytime.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Portable Literature (Sixth ed). Kirsznner and Mandell

Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction. Jonathan Culler

Shopgirl. Steve Martin

Quick Access (Fifth ed). Troyka and Hesse

COURSE DESCRIPTION: When we read works of literature—novels, short stories, poetry, or drama—we are free to respond to them in many ways. Writing is just one of

these ways, and there are many avenues you may pursue. We will read several works and you will explore the multiple facets of writing about literature through personal response papers, a critical essay, a creative presentation, and interpretation on midterm and final exams. We will study other written responses to some of the works in order to help you understand the limitless possibilities for your own writings. I want you to amuse yourself, just as Daniel does in Steve Martin's *The Pleasure of My Company*, by imagining responses that "trumpet the ordinary events" of all of our days. This is an "L" and an "R" course, so you will be reading and writing extensively.

GOALS OF THE COURSE:

The world of literature encompasses a broad range of texts. From poetry to novels, this course will explore not only different genres, but also, and more importantly, the social and cultural conditions under which the works were produced. In addition to studying character, plot, imagery, metaphor, etc. in the diverse works, students will be introduced to critical approaches to literature such as Structuralist, Feminist, Psychological, Reader-Response, and Deconstructionist. By applying theory to the texts, students will learn to pull more than just character analysis from the work; they will apply practical methods to the somewhat isolated image of the text.

The Rollins faculty has described the purpose of the L requirement this way: "The L requirement seeks to develop lifelong readers, sensitive to the richness of literary texts and to the pleasure of exploring that richness. In support of this goal, the L requirement develops students' ability to discover and articulate the ways in which literature imaginatively reflects the human condition." Upon completion of an L course, students will be able to write valid, college-level critical essays on literary texts. In this class, you will write several short critical response papers and one substantial critical paper, employing strategies of literary criticism, and present one creative presentation effectively leading and guiding the class in the discussion of a particular work.

This course also satisfies the Writing Reinforcement (R) General Education Requirement (GER). **The Rollins faculty has described the purpose of the R requirement this way:** "Students receive instruction in the complexities of audience analysis and engagement so that they can write coherently and thoughtfully in public and professional spheres, as well as in academic venues." In this course, students read fiction and literary criticism; both supply them with writing topics and methods of critical analysis. By the end of the course, students will have completed a significant portfolio of writings, and they will have demonstrated on exams their ability to think and write critically.

The expectation is that 80% of students in this course will compile a portfolio of work whose average will be judged C or better, the C indicating work at a college level.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Ten Response Papers	10%
One Creative Presentation	10 %
<i>Shopgirl</i> /Critical Essay	20%
Ten Quizzes	10%
Mid-term Exam	20 %
Final Exam	20 %
In-class Participation/Attendance	10 %

RESPONSE PAPERS: These short papers are designed as a way for you to interpret the readings. I want you to respond to the works by articulating thoughtful, critical responses to the readings. **I do not want plot summaries.** The papers should be in MLA format, and you will be graded on grammar and mechanics. Word limit: 225-250. We will share these papers in class and use your ideas to facilitate discussion. You must include two quotes from the reading to supplement your responses. See handout for an example of a response paper.

CREATIVE PRESENTATION: You are required to choose a particular work and come up with a creative way to present your interpretation of the work to the class. If you are an artist, you may choose to create a painting or a sculpture that reflects your idea. If you like to cook, you may create food that relates to or is mentioned in the work. The presentation must include a written component explaining your particular project. We will discuss ideas in class. Your grade is based on the amount of research you put into the project and your enthusiasm for the work.

SHOPGIRL CRITICAL ESSAY: We will read *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* during the first part of the semester. Your essay should reflect one or more of the ideas/theories presented in the Culler book; in other words, you will apply an idea/theory to *Shopgirl*. For example, you may choose to apply a feminist perspective to a particular female character in the work, exploring the way Martin presents her through particular language and description. We will discuss the many ways you can approach your essay during class, and I am available to meet with you individually. I must approve your essay idea before you begin your work.

QUIZZES: Quizzes will be on readings from your *Quick Access* writing handbook as well as certain readings from *Portable Literature*. Quizzes are open book.

MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS: The exams will test your knowledge of the reading material and the discussions in class and online. Both exams are completely open-book and open notes and will consist of identifications and essay questions. We will have "practice

exams" before each test so you will have an idea of what to expect. Material covered will be all required texts and handouts that I provide during the course of the semester.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE: In a literature class, it is imperative that you come to class having read the material, prepared to discuss different aspects of the readings. I will take attendance each week. Although I am generally reasonable and flexible, you should realize that a pattern of missed classes (and/or coming late, leaving early) throughout the course may seriously affect your grade. I understand that life circumstances can interfere with your desire to attend class and be on time. Nevertheless, I believe in rewarding students who attend class; therefore, I try to react—especially when I writing exam questions—to classroom discussions. If you must miss a class, I suggest that you make arrangements to contact a fellow classmate and get his or her notes for that week.

GRADING CRITERIA

RESPONSE PAPERS AND CRITICAL ESSAY

- **"A" paper** is clearly superior in style, structure, development, premise, and technical proficiency (grammar, punctuation, spelling, and so on).
- **"B" paper** must be technically proficient (in grammar, usage, spelling, etc.) AND outstanding in some aspect of style, premise, and/or presentation.
- **"C" paper** is coherent, shows technical competence, and meets the assignment as to content.
- **"D" paper** is barely acceptable because it is deficient in some aspect(s) of technique, clarity, and/or course requirements.
- **"F" paper** is not acceptable.

Specifically, as to "technical proficiency," be aware that NO PAPER can garner an A or B grade if it is marred by an accumulation of the following errors:

1. sentence fragments
2. run-on sentences / comma splices
3. lack of agreement: subject/verb, noun/pronoun
4. lack of possessive apostrophe
5. dangling or misplaced modifiers
6. shifting verb tenses
7. unparallel constructions
8. no comma after introductory/non-restrictive element
9. inadvertent/inappropriate use of passive voice
10. use of "I" as objective case pronoun

11. confusion between *its/it's*, *to/too*, *their/there/they're*, *affect/effect*, and so on
12. misuse of colons / semi-colons

Late Papers will lose one letter grade. A late paper, in other words, can never earn a grade higher than "B." So even if you're not happy with a paper, **BRING IT WITH YOU TO CLASS.** You can always revise and rewrite your paper.

RULES FOR RE-WRITING

After turning in a paper, you will receive it back, graded and with comments. You then have the option of re-writing that paper. If you do so, I will treat the re-written paper as a NEW paper, grading it and making comments; the grade on the RE-WRITTEN paper is the grade that stands. This process of re-writing may continue through several cycles.

But if you choose to re-write a paper, you must do as follows:

- (1) Actually RE-WORK AND REVISE YOUR PROSE. A mere correction of a few spelling and/or grammar errors does NOT comprise "re-writing." If it should happen that I do not consider a paper to be sufficiently re-written, I will give it back to you, ungraded, for further work.
- (2) Turn in all earlier "versions" with your re-write, stapling or clipping them together under a cover sheet that explains to me what these papers are.

****DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN YOUR RE-WRITE IS May 1, 2008**

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Make-up policy: Exams can be made-up if you have a legitimate excuse for missing either the mid-term or the final. I suggest that if you know you will have to be absent on either exam day, you come to me and work out a time to take the exam early. Your make-up exam will not be the same as the regular exam, so be aware of that. You are responsible for making arrangements with me for a make-up time. Quizzes must be made up at the beginning of the class following the missed class or before class between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. You may miss class time while you are making up a quiz, so try to attend all classes when there is a quiz to avoid this situation.

Bottom line on attendance: As stated above, attendance is crucial in a literature class. I will reserve the option of deducting from your final course grade an entire letter grade if you miss more than three classes.

Incompletes: If you decide that you need to take a grade of "Incomplete" in the course, it is YOUR responsibility to advise me ahead of time and to do the necessary paperwork.

Amendments to Syllabus // Missed Handouts // Missed Film Clips

(1) This syllabus may be amended at any time; if you miss a class during which this happens or is announced, it is YOUR responsibility to find out about it.

(2) If you miss a class during which handouts are distributed, it is YOUR responsibility to get what you missed. For this purpose, it's a good idea to find a class buddy who will get missed assignments for you.

(3) Film clips (some short, some longer) and entire film showings are used to enhance your understanding of the works and to provide another creative way of looking at a text. If you miss a film clip or an entire film, you are welcome to borrow the clip/film from me if I have it available.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Academic Honesty: Academic Honesty is defined as accepting the responsibility for doing one's own work. It's appropriate to get advice and feedback from other people, but it's not appropriate to take credit for someone else's work. The College's policy on Academic Dishonesty is that, after two infractions, a student is subject to suspension or dismissal. In the best-case scenario, academic dishonesty can mean a ZERO on an assignment AND an F in the course. In the worst-case scenario, academic dishonesty can mean suspension or expulsion.

The Academic Honor Code in the Hamilton Holt School:

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, as a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationship with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students, therefore, shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, et cetera, the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

"On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work."

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodation in order to participate in this class, please make appropriate arrangements with Lisa Marsh, CRC, Disability Services Coordinator, located in the Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, (407) 646-2354, e-mail lmash@rollins.edu.

IMPORTANT DATES

Schedule changes (Drop/Add)	1/15/08-1/22/08
Credit/No Credit Deadline	1/29/08
Drop Without Notation Deadline	1/29/08
Drop Without Penalty Deadline	3/28/08

SOME FINAL NOTES

Communicate with me. Don't let your grade slip because of missed classes and assignments. Let me know what is going on and *possibly* we can salvage your final grade.

I generally give handouts during each class meeting. It is your responsibility to collect the handouts you may miss because of an absence.

All outside writing should be typed and formatted according to MLA standards.

Finally, I do not accept e-mailed papers unless there are extenuating circumstances that you must discuss with me well ahead of time. Make sure to save all of your work in case your computer crashes. You can always print your work in the library.