

Fall 8-15-2011

ENG 3002-001: Research Writing For Literary Studies

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English 3002: Research Writing for Literary Studies
Fall 2011

Coleman 3691 – 11:00 a.m. (T/R)

Instructor: Tim Engles
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 Phone: 581.6316

Office: 3831 Coleman
 Office Hours: 2-3, T/R
 Listserv: 3002f11@lists.eiu.edu

Required TRS Texts

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. 1899.
 Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. 1970.
 ----- . *Playing in the Dark*. 1992.
 Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook*, 7th edition, 2003.
 Kehrwald Cook, Claire. *Line by Line: How to Improve Your Own Writing*. 1985.

Handed out in class—*Towards a Bibliography of Critical Whiteness Studies*. 2006.

Additional readings listed in the Daily Schedule below will be provided as handouts, or as email attachments, or through library reserve. You will be responsible for printing electronically accessed articles, and for bringing a printed, carefully read copy of each one to class.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**(read the following carefully; these words constitute our contract,
 and I will request your written agreement to them)**

Course Description: This advanced course is designed for English majors who want to learn more about (1) planning and conducting effective research; (2) discussing, reviewing, and analyzing in-depth, scholarly writing on literature and film; and (3) writing their own reviews, proposals, and articles. Research and writing in literary studies typically begin with immersion in a specialized area of study; ours will be a relatively recent area called “critical whiteness studies.” We will read scholarship that reveals some of the theoretical approaches and key concepts in this research area, and we will apply such concepts to literature and film. Students will emerge with both a solid understanding of a particular approach to multicultural art and a greater understanding of historical and contemporary racial dynamics in the United States.

Assignments

Written Review 1	10%
Written Review 2	15%
Research Essay Proposal	10%
Proposal Presentation	10%
Research Essay	30%
Research Essay Abstract	5%
Participation, Attendance, Quizzes	20%

Grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale (100 to 90 = A, 89 to 80 = B, and so on).

Regarding Quizzes: Because the answers to unannounced quizzes come up in class after quizzes are taken, they cannot be made up (even if you come to class late, and even if you have a legitimate explanation for your absence). These quizzes are one way to reward those who attend class regularly and on time. I recognize that some students must be absent at times; accordingly, when I compile your quiz grades at the end of the semester into an average score, I will drop the lowest one—if you miss a quiz, that will be your one dropped quiz. If you don't miss any quizzes, I will still drop your lowest score from your quiz average.

Late Work: Daily assignments and peer reviews falling under the participation grade cannot be made up. I will consider granting extensions on assignments on a case-by-case basis. To receive an extension, you must cite truly extenuating circumstances for the request. Extensions will be granted entirely at my discretion. In the case that you should fail to submit an assignment on time, you will be penalized 15% for each day that the assignment is late. You may turn assignments before their due dates if you know you must miss class that day.

E-mail Activity: Enrollment in this class requires an e-mail account, and you must check it frequently for messages pertaining to the course (that is, several times per week, at least). You already have an EIU account; you're welcome to use another type of account, but just be sure you use one for this course that you tend to check frequently, and be sure that messages pertaining to this course do not end up in your "Junk Mail" folder. We will use our course listserv (or "e-mail discussion list") for announcements and for occasional extension of in-class discussion. E-mail is also the quickest, easiest way to reach me if I am not in my office; I welcome any and all e-mailed questions and comments.

Using e-mail is crucial for this course—if you do not send me an e-mail message (tdengles@eiu.edu) by Friday, August 26 at 3:00 p.m., I will assume that you have chosen against fully participating in the course, and I will therefore drop you. In that message, (1) tell me which course you're in (English 3002); (2) describe yourself in whatever way you choose, including your career aspirations; (3) write a statement to the effect that you have read and agree to (or perhaps in part disagree with, which is fine, if you explain why) these course policies and requirements; and (4) as with all emails you send to instructors, "sign" it by adding your name at the end of the message. Sending me this message will also constitute your "signature" of our course contract, that is, these Policies and Procedures that you're reading. I will then use your email address to subscribe you to the class listserv (you don't have to subscribe to it yourself).

Attendance Policy: The rule regarding attendance is: be here. I will take attendance, and I expect you to attend class every day, on time, and prepared to discuss the material listed for that day on the "daily schedule." Up to three absences is okay; after that, each absence will lower your final grade in this course by one letter. Keep in mind that missing class frequently will lower your final grade as well as your grade on the reading quizzes. In addition, note that coming to class "prepared" means coming to class with that day's assigned reading—anyone who does not have the day's assigned reading with them may be considered absent.

Regarding tardiness: this is a small class, so late arrivals are disruptive—if for some bizarre reason you wish to get on my bad side, you can easily do so by developing the habit of arriving late for class. If you will not be able to arrive for this class on time because of other commitments, drop it and take another course. Finally, you are responsible for all assignments, whether

you attend class or not. Get to know one or two other students in class, or get in touch with me, so you can find out about any missed assignments *before* you come to class.

Classroom Environment: In class, I expect all of you to participate in discussions (class participation will be figured into your final grade). The best way to demonstrate that you are an active, engaged, and interested reader is by doing the reading assignments carefully, by contributing regularly to class and group discussions, and by paying close, respectful attention to what everyone else has to say.

During most of our sessions, I do not plan to lecture; students learn better when they contribute together to a positive, challenging, interesting learning environment. If you have questions, no matter how simple or complicated, go ahead and ask, either in class or via e-mail—chances are that other students have the same question.

Also, so that you don't distract others, please do not eat food or chew gum during class (beverages are okay). Silence your cell phone and do not use it for texting during class, and do not use a computer in class.

Academic Dishonesty: Instances of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be reported to EIU's Judicial Affairs Office. The penalty for academic dishonesty is failure in the course. You need to submit only original work in this class. Also, carefully document all sources *for both rough and final drafts* according to the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook*. Make sure, in particular, that any quoted material in your written work appears in quotation marks. If you have concerns about your use of sources, please meet with me to discuss them *before* turning in your work.

The Office of Disability Services: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

DAILY SCHEDULE

**This schedule may be subject to change;
any changes will be announced well in advance.**
Complete each reading before class on the day it's listed.

- T Aug 23 Introduction to the course and to each other
- R Aug 25 before class, print out and readings by Dyer, Dalton, and hooks (handed out on 8/23)
- F Aug 26 3 p.m. **Deadline** for sending Dr. Engles (tdengles@eiu.edu) the e-mail that's described above (under "E-mail Activity")
- T Aug 30 Morrison, *Playing in the Dark*, pages v to 44
- R Sep 1 *Playing in the Dark*, 44-end

T Sep 6 Chopin, *The Awakening*, 3-44

R Sep 8 *The Awakening*, 44-88

T Sep 13 *The Awakening*, 88-end; also, bring to class a two-page description of your scholarly writing—what do you see as your strengths? And your weaknesses?

R Sep 15 Reading for today--Michele A. Birnbaum, “‘Alien Hands’: Kate Chopin and the Colonization of Race”

- Birnbaum’s article is available online at Booth Library e-reserve site, by clicking through on the “Reserves” link on Booth’s front page; our course password is **te3002** (while there, you may want to save some time by also printing out the article below by Joyce Dyer)

T Sep 20 Rebecca Aanerud, “Fictions of Whiteness: Speaking the Names of Whiteness in U.S. Literature” (handed out previously in class)

- Also, discussion of Review Essay 1, in which you will evaluate Joyce Dyer’s article, “Reading *The Awakening* with Toni Morrison,” which you will read on you own; Dyer’s article is on e-reserve

R Sep 22 Writing Workshop—Commas and Unnecessary Passive Voice

T Sep 27 Draft of Review 1 due; in-class peer review

R Sep 29 No class—work on your essay! Dr. Engles will be in his office during class-time and his office hours if you’d like to stop in to discuss anything about your review

M Oct 3 **3 p.m. -- Deadline for sending Review Essay 1 to Dr. Engles as an attachment**

(More to come, and soon!)