

English 400-02 Senior Tutorial Spring 2005
W 7-9:30 pm Prof. Sandra Zagarell
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Office Hours M 3:30-5, Fri 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

This colloquium is based on two notions: 1] that you'll pursue serious intellectual work independently and 2] that everyone will also gain from working in a setting in which you present your work-in-progress to others, get feedback from them, and keep abreast of and respond to their work-in-progress.

I've organized the first part of the semester to get everyone thinking about what each of us does when she talks and writes about literature or other forms of cultural expression and to deepen skills in designing a substantial project and conducting research for it. We'll talk about some fiction and poetry that is provocative and, I hope, appealing. We'll also read recent accounts of methods and approaches that have predominated in the academic study of literature. At what I hope are helpful points in the semester we'll read Booth, *et al*, The Craft of Research, on designing, researching, drafting, and revising projects such as yours. Most importantly, your ideas, questions, concerns, writing processes, and writing along with the feed-back and other responses you give to others in the tutorial will be the tutorial's main focus. That means a lot of the semester's work will center on what you are doing. You'll devise the structure that works best for you in the small groups you'll be working in for a good deal of the semester. Everyone in the tutorial as a whole will also be communicating electronically as they wish and need to even when we're not all meeting face to face. Moreover, everyone will get to hear what everyone else has done: we'll meet as a whole at the end of the semester and each participant will present her work.

Required Texts

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams, eds., The Craft of Research, 2nd ed. (Chicago: U Of Chicago Press, 2003). Available at the Oberlin Bookstore.
Articles, fiction and poetry on Electronic Reserve, Mudd Library

Requirements

Attendance and preparation.

The tutorial presumes everyone's presence and participation.
Preparation and attendance are mandatory. Consistent, active,

thoughtful, generous participation as a researcher, writer, reader, and evaluator is required. Your written and oral participation will figure significantly in your final grade for the course.

The final "result" or "product" of the tutorial is the substantial (~20 page) critical essay you will write. Your final grade will be based in large part on that essay. The essay, however, is not a "stand-alone" "product" and certainly not a last-minute one. It will emerge over the course of study and inquiry, of planning, drafting, and revising in which you will engage this semester. For the final grade, the essay will be considered on its own but also as part of this process. In other words, because the process is critical to your work this semester, your final grade will reflect what you've done as you've designed, researched, drafted and revised your essay as well as the essay itself.

Schedule (a general outline, open to revision)

- Feb. 7 Prospecti due, via email to SZ
- Feb. 9 Introductions. Discuss Flannery O'Connor, "Everything That Rises Must Converge" and "Good Country People" as well as Paul Laurence Dunbar, "When Malindy Sings" and "We Wear the Masks," all on **ERes**
- Feb. 16 M. H. Abrams, "The transformation of English Studies: 1930-199), Daedalus (Winter 1997), 105-08, 115, 119-20 and Catherine Gallagher, "The History of Literary Criticism," Daedalus (Winter 1997), 133-155). Both on **ERes**. Also take up "What is a project?" (what, why, how: subject and questions posed as well as annotated bibliography) Read for this part Booth, et al, The Craft of Research, Ch. 2 and Section II
- Feb. 23 Library session on research and return to seminar room to continue discussion of Craft, as above.
- March 2 Presentations of prospecti and assignment of small groups

March 9 Small groups meet; talk about how they will proceed and post their protocols on Blackboard and about work in progress (first 5 pp due in 4 days)

Sunday, March 13, 4:30 pm: First 5 pp of draft of your paper due on Blackboard

March 16 Small groups meet to discuss the draft first 5 pp of each person in the group

Sunday, March 20, 4:30 pm: Next 5 pp of draft of your paper due on Blackboard

March 23 Small groups meet to discuss the draft of second 5-pp of each person in the group

*** **SPRING BREAK** ***

April 6 Tutorial meets as a whole: assignment: Craft of Research, Section III and Section IV, pp.185-240

Sunday, April 10, 4:30 pm: final 10 pp of draft of your paper due on Blackboard

April 13 Small groups meet to discuss the draft of final 10pp of each person in the group

April 20 Group or individual work: we'll decide closer to the date

Sunday, April 24, 4:30 pm: full first draft of your paper due on Blackboard

April 27 Small groups to discuss drafts (you may need to schedule an additional time to get to everyone's draft)

May 4 Presentations of your work to the tutorial as a whole

May 11 Small group work

Final essay due: date and time at which the final exam for the course is scheduled.

Nota Bene:

Obviously, you'll be working on your theses throughout the semester--drafting, re-writing, etc. You also meet individually

with SZ at least once every two weeks. Make sure you set your appointments up well in advance.

A final observation: please be sure you are familiar with Oberlin College's Honor System. The purpose of the system is to maintain a high standard of integrity in all academic work at Oberlin College. Its basic assumption is "that all academic work submitted is the sole and original product of the individual student. The System respects the students' ability to maintain this standard and encourages the further development of this ability" (from Oberlin College Course Catalogue, 1996-97, p. 14). The Honor System's terminology and implementation are detailed at <http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor>