Writing About Literature—English 1325

Semester  Spring 2010
Course Section  English 1325.003 (Matt 115)
                MW, 1:00 p.m.
Instructor  Anne Schoolfield
Office Information  Room: LB 407A
                   Phone: English Office 565-2050 / 407A 369-8945
                   Email: anne@unt.edu
                   Web:    http://www.engl.unt.edu/~anne
Office Hours  MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., TR 12:00 noon-12:20, & by appointment
Textbook  
Kindred, Octavia Butler (ISBN: 0807083054)
The Beekeeper’s Apprentice, Laurie R. King (ISBN: 0553571656)
The Norton Anthology of Fiction
Style Handbook

Evaluation  Daily Work and Participation  30%
            Writing Portfolio  40%
            In-class Responses/Emails
            Learning Logs
            Explications
            Position Paper
            Research Project
            Midterm Examination  15%
            Final Examination  15%

Daily Work  I will assign daily work in addition to the work I list on the syllabus. You
            may also have pop quizzes as daily grades.

Participation I will use the following scale to award points for class participation:
            Very well prepared, excellent participation  10 points
            Well prepared, good participation  9 points
            Adequately prepared, good participation  8 points
            Somewhat prepared, average participation  7 points
            Unprepared, minimal/no participation  6 points
            Unprepared, no participation/disruptive  5 points
            
            Note: Merely sitting in class earns you an F in participation. Also, please see
            important information about attendance and class behavior on page 3.

Extra Credit  None
### Disability Accommodation

In accordance with the terms and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, I will cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

If you have disabilities and have not registered with ODA, I encourage you to register.

Please present your written request for accommodation to me no later than the end of the fourth day of class.

### Essential Competencies

Essential competencies for this course include the ability to

- read and analyze literary texts
- write clear, concise, and appropriate prose to respond to a variety of assignments
- discuss—in class and in small groups—literary texts
- use word processing, electronic mail, and graphics software applications on a personal computer

### Grades and Their Meaning

For this course, we define grades

- A=excellent (reserved for real excellence)
- B=good (an honors grade)
- C=fair (signifies average competence)
- D=passing
- F=failing

### Cooperative Work

While many scholars work alone, many work cooperatively on projects. For this reason, you may exercise the option to coauthor your position paper. If you decide to exercise this option, how you divide the labor and deal with the politics of the essay’s production is up to you. Please do not come to me to complain about a slacker in your group. Remember, this is an option, not a requirement.

### Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

While I encourage scholarly cooperation, I abhor cheating. Plagiarism is cheating. The 11th edition of the *Harbrace College Handbook* defines plagiarism as presenting as your own work, deliberately or accidentally, the words or ideas of another (424).

In the third edition of *A Writer’s Reference*, Diana Hacker delineates three forms of plagiarism: “(1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (261).

*You* must keep straight which ideas and words are your own and which belong to others. *I will fail from the course anyone I catch plagiarizing!*

### Computer Requirements

This class may use Blackboard. Stay tuned for details.
Class Policies

The following class policies will help you succeed in this class and understand what I expect of you.

Attendance

- Attend class regularly and on time.
  
  *You cannot perform well unless you attend class.*

  If you miss a class, *you* are responsible for all material covered and all assignments made. After two (2) absences, your participation grade will drop one letter grade. Further, if you exceed four (4) absences, you will be dropped with a WF or receive an F in the course.

**Important!** You are absent if you

- are not in class when I call roll
- leave class early without my permission
- sleep during class
- come to class without your textbook
- sit in class with a nonessential electronic device in your ear

**Please note:** Illness is NOT a university-approved excuse.

- Contact me if you cannot attend class.
- Turn off all cell phones and nonessential electronic devices during class.

Assignments

- Submit all assignments on time.
  
  *If you are having trouble completing an assignment, talk with me several days before the assignment is due.*

- Prepare all outside class assignments (except some daily exercises) using word-processing software.

- Print all documents on a laser printer to ensure your documents are neat and visually appealing and appear professional.

- Prepare all assignments specifically according to instructions for format, organization, or style.

  *Assignments not prepared according to instructions may receive a grade of F.*

- Make copies of your papers that you wish to keep.

  *I must keep your papers on file for one year.*

Writing Portfolio

At the end of this semester, you will present a portfolio of your writing in this class that includes the following:

- A Table of Contents
- A Letter of Submission that presents your portfolio and overviews its contents
- In-class Responses and Emails
- Learning Logs
- Explications
- Position Paper
- Research Project
- All Rewrites
- Your Self-Assessment Memo

**Note:** While I will return your papers and rewrites with extensive comments after each due date listed on the syllabus, I will not assign a grade to your writing until I receive your portfolio.
## Readings and Assignments

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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Short Fiction Group 1: Poe, “The Purloined Letter” Conan-Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia” (handout)</td>
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<td>27 Reading:</td>
<td><em>The Beekeeper’s Apprentice</em>—Chapters 1-7</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Reading:</td>
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<td>Task:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 Reading:</td>
<td>Task:</td>
<td>Presentation on Laurie R. King</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>8 Reading:</td>
<td><em>The Beekeeper’s Apprentice</em>—Chapters 17-19, Editor’s Preface, Author’s Note</td>
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<td>Reading:</td>
<td>Short Fiction 3</td>
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<td>3 Reading:</td>
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<td><em>Frankenstein</em>—Volume II</td>
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<td>10 Reading:</td>
<td><em>Frankenstein</em>—Volume III</td>
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<td>March 14-21</td>
<td>Spring Break—No Class!!!</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>24 Task:</td>
<td>Midterm—Day 2</td>
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### Readings and Assignments, cont.

| Week 10 | 29  | Reading:  *Kindred*—Prologue, The River, The Fire  
|         |     | Presentation on Octavia Butler |
|         | 31  | Reading:  *Kindred*—The Fall, The Fight |
| Week 11 | April 5 | Reading:  *Kindred*—The Storm, The Rope, Epilogue |
|         | 7   | Task: Writing Day—work on Learning Logs |
| Week 12 | 12  | Task: **Due:** Position Paper Learning Logs  
|         |     | Paper Conferences Writing Day |
|         | 14  | Task: Library Orientation; Discuss Research Project |
| Week 13 | 19  | Task: Writing Day |
|         | 21  | Task: Writing Day |
| Week 14 | 26  | Task: **Due:** Position Paper |
|         | 28  | Task: Writing Day |
| Week 15 | May 3  | Task: **Due:** Research Project |
|         | 5   | Task: **Due:** Draft of Self-Assessment Memo and Letter of Submission |
| Week 16 | 12 (Wednesday) | **Final Exam—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
|         |     | **DUE:** Writing Portfolio (includes all previous writing plus  
|         |     | Position Paper and Research Project Rewrites) |