

SENIOR LITERATURE PORTFOLIO 2012-13

GUIDELINES & ASSIGNMENTS

This assignment is part of the LJML assessment of the Literature and English Education programs.

Please submit a portfolio from your courses here in LJML, consisting of the following three papers:

1. **ASSIGNMENT 1**: Final Literary Analysis from LIT250 Lower Division Introductory Course
2. **ASSIGNMENT 2**: Final Research Paper from an Upper Division Literature Course
3. **ASSIGNMENT 3**: Final Research Paper from LIT495

Please upload these assignments into your Live Text account. Thank you for doing this.

ASSIGNMENT ONE: SENIOR PORTFOLIO: LIT 250 FINAL LITERARY ANALYSIS

For our purposes in LIT 250 this paper will be the **Major Paper** because it will represent your cumulative and most skilled literary analysis of the semester; it should be informed by all the formal and informal feedback you have received on previous analyses; it should use MLA style *flawlessly*.

Writing Task:

Please construct a 4-5 page analysis of James Joyce's story "The Dead" based on a main claim of your own choosing and using one or a combination of critical approaches identified in your DiYanni text, Bressler text, and/or in the case study book for "The Dead." You might design your main claim to address a particular

- effect or meaning that seems dominant in the work;
- key question and/or issue that become apparent as a result of a particular critical approach;
- genre that the work seems to embody interestingly;
- literary device that seems uniquely significant in the work;
- structural feature (scene, recurring pattern, archetype, plot closure, etc.) that defines the thematic message of the work or the predominant effect of the work;

Your analysis **must use** the primary source of "The Dead" and a minimum of **three (3) secondary sources** which may include the readings in the case study book. Outstanding papers, however, will show evidence of research that goes beyond assigned course texts. All sources **must be listed** in a Works Cited page at the end of your analysis.

Your paper **should include** a full introduction and conclusion following the rhetorical components outlined in the handout on introductions and conclusions that you were given for Analysis 3.

You will find that beginning your pre-writing work by responding to the *Close Reading Frames of Analysis* handout (see *Eclass*) will help you explore the meaning of the story and identify the literary devices, issues, themes, and effects that are of interest to you.

Research:

Please use the information covered in the Baker and Huling text to assist you in researching your paper if need be.

Matters to Remember:

1. Be sure to structure your analysis in terms of **main claim, sub-claims (reasons), and textual evidence**. (See *template handout and Eclass*.)
2. Remember that your **evidence is not self-evident**; it requires **explanatory commentary** preceding it to direct readers to what specifically in the evidence illustrates your sub-claim and main claim and often following it for full elaboration and/or summarizing. Remember **quotes may not stand alone** as sentences on their own. (See *handout on Hamlet example from early in the semester and Eclass*.)
3. Remember as well, that you need to use the same set of **key words and ideas** from your claim statement throughout your discussion. This practice builds **coherence and clarity** in your argument. (See *revision guide handouts to coherent papers and Eclass*.)

4. Remember to include a full **introduction** and **conclusion** that follow the rhetorical components outlined in class and on handout. (*See handout on introductions and conclusions and Eclass.*)

MLA Style: *MLA Handbook for Writers*

Please follow MLA guidelines in formatting, mechanics and stylistics. Papers that do not follow MLA style will be returned ungraded. Please see ***MLA Handbook Chapter 4*** for correct format.

Include your secondary and primary sources in a "List of Works Cited" page at the end of your analysis. See ***MLA Handbook, Chapter 5 "Documentation: Preparing the List of Works Cited"***, especially sections **5.1-5.3** for the correct arrangement of this page. Please use the applicable sections **5.4-5.8** in the remainder of **Chapter 5** as your sources dictate.

Review **Chapter 3 "The Mechanics of Writing"** (especially **section 3.7**). Review also **Chapter 2 "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity,"** if you have any questions about what you should/should not cite. Also give careful attention to the pertinent examples for citing sources in the text of your paper which are covered in **Chapter 6 "Documentation: Citing Sources in the Text."**

You would do well to also carefully consult **Chapter 4 "The Format of the Research Paper"** as it applies to your particular paper. See also Citation Machine website:
<http://citationmachine.net/>

Special Components of Major Paper not Required for Preceding Literary Analysis Papers:

- Additional Length
- Primary ***and*** Several Secondary Sources Required

RUBRICS FOR ASSESSMENT: Local Rubric (Loaded into LIVE TEXT)

ASSIGNMENT TWO: SENIOR PORTFOLIO: UPPER DIVISION LITERATURE RESEARCH PAPER

Length: 10-15pp.

Major Paper Text: Compose a **main claim-driven/thesis-driven** argument that identifies a significant but arguable interpretation of a work, works, or issue. Your paper should demonstrate skilled close reading and *could* draw on one or more theoretical approaches to the work (Formalist, Feminist, Marxist, New Historicist/Cultural Poetics, etc.)—though a theoretical approach is not required. If you take a particular theoretical approach in your research paper, you do not need to explicitly name the critical approach since it will be implicitly communicated by the way you frame your thesis and discussion.

Sources: You will need to research, read, and cite material from scholarly sources outside the primary text you choose to analyze. These scholarly materials will include books, articles, essays, internet periodicals, etc. written about the primary text or issue you've selected. Please exercise good judgment in the internet sources you select and cite. Please consult the MLA Bibliography as well as additional library databases for the most reliable and up-to-date sources for your research.

Your paper should include 10-20 of these sources.

Major Paper Style Guide: Follow MLA Style explicitly.

RUBRICS FOR ASSESSMENT: AAC&U Informational Literacy, AAC&U Written Communication (Loaded into LIVE TEXT)

ASSIGNMENT THREE: SENIOR PORTFOLIO: LIT 495 FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Longer essay, 10 to 12 pages, journal quality

A. Format: Approximately 3500-4000 words (not including Works Cited), double-spaced, MLA format, using parenthetical citations and proper MLA format for Works Cited at the end. You may use sub-headings to help organize the paper.

B. Sources: Use at least ten sources besides the work itself. **These can be both writings of the theoreticians and essays by critics applying theories to the works.**

Use AT LEAST four journal articles. For all sources, try to use ones written after 1980, unless historical research is germane to your approach. Do NOT use general encyclopedia or Wikipedia type of sources. Use the databases, not the Web, to find materials.

C. Content:

1. An introduction to your work and the critical question/issue with which you will be dealing. (Example: "In *The Awakening*, the interpretation of the ending, in which Edna walks out into the sea, is a major subject of debate among critics.")
2. A review of the critical literature on this aspect of the work (the discussion of the critical question), including those essays that use the theory you are using and other ones, as desired.
3. A discussion of what critical theory you will be using and why it is helpful in answering the question or dealing with the issue you chose. A statement of your thesis. (Example: "Lacanian theory provides a cogent interpretation of the conclusion. With its emphasis on maternal attachment, the theory provides a helpful window into Edna's connections to the sea, which can be viewed as a return to the womb.")
4. Your theoretically-based analysis of the work, which will also reference other critics as well.
5. A strong conclusion to reinforce why your approach and findings are an important way to interpret the work. Your essay should focus upon how your essay contributes to the ongoing critical conversation regarding the literary work you chose.

RUBRICS FOR ASSESSMENT: AAC&U Critical Thinking, AAC&U Written Communication (Loaded into LIVE TEXT)