



ENGLISH 203 01: WRITING FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

Fall, 2009

TR 2:00-3:15; LB 266

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Marcia McGowan

OFFICE: Webb 251

E-MAIL: McGowan@easternct.edu

OFFICE HOURS: TR 12:30-2:00; W 1-3:00; and by appointment

ADDRESS: I prefer to be called either "Dr. McGowan" or "Professor McGowan."

TELEPHONE: 465-4582

TEXTS: Joseph Gibaldi, editor. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. **7th** edition.
Elizabeth McMahan, *et. al.* Literature and the Writing Process. **8th** edition.
Kate Chopin. The Awakening. Bedford Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism. **2nd** edition. (No substitutes, as this edition contains essential critical essays.)

COURSE GOALS: Being an English major involves not just reading literature, but studying it carefully and critically and writing about it eloquently. Through reading the texts chosen for this course, you will increase your sophistication in critical thinking, literary format conventions, and the research process. Towards the end of the course, you will also be exposed to varieties of literary criticism and theory that inform the practice of scholars of English studies. But first and foremost, you will work on refining your present writing style, so that your engagement in writing a research paper for a 300 level course or, ultimately, a seminar is not only an informed process, but a comfortable one as well.

PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS: The format of this class will be that of seminar discussion, writing workshops, and individual conferences. In class we will discuss the literature we read and the rhetoric and process of writing about it, and students will read and comment on each other's drafts. Individual conferences will replace class time and will be held in my office.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. You are expected to be both present and on time for class. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated. Please notify me as soon as possible if you have to be absent because of an emergency, and I will be happy to help you catch up. (Verified illness or emergency constitutes the only excuse for an absence.)

- Because there will be in-class discussions of the literature that you read, as well as the papers you write, and sessions during which you comment on each other's paper drafts, this is **not** a class in which you can catch up on what you missed through borrowing another student's notes. Your presence is therefore essential.
- When individual conferences are scheduled with me in my office, it is imperative that you attend and be **on time**, as they will replace class time and will be scheduled tightly. Each of you will be given a regular conference spot.
- For each paper assignment, you will hand in at least one rough draft and a final copy. Every time you hand in a final copy, it must be accompanied by a rough draft. Please staple these hard copies together.
- Your **prompt** attendance and **timely** completion of both class and homework assignments are absolutely essential to your success in this course. No late assignments will be accepted, except by prearrangement, or by arrangement with the instructor in

case of documented illness or emergency. Please bring The MLA Handbook and Literature and the Writing Process with you to every class.

- Do not look at your cell phone in class. Do not finish your homework for another class or study for an exam during class. Turn off all cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices in class, remove your earphones, and remember that food is not allowed in library classrooms.
- Please do not leave the class except in case of emergency or prior arrangement. Leaving class without notice is rude and disruptive.
- If you are a student with a disability and believe that you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Accessibility Services at (860) 465-5573. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Please understand that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of Accessibility Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

GRADES: Your grades will be based upon the success of your writing exercises, some of which may be assigned in class. Success implies **timely** completion of assignments and **full participation** in class exercises and discussions; therefore, lateness and unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your grade.

- Except for work written in the class, papers must be word processed according to the format that is suggested in The MLA Handbook. All drafts must be proof-read intensively and submitted on time in hard copy.
- Computer or printer-generated problems are not excuses for late assignments.
- **Plagiarism**, borrowing the words or ideas of others without attribution, will result, at the least, in failure of the course.
- You will write **four** major papers, which will gradually increase in length, using appropriate secondary sources when requested, and documenting them according to MLA guidelines. (See The MLA Handbook.) After both your classmates and I have examined your rough draft, you and I will confer on it at an assigned time, and I will return it to you for revision. Only the final draft of your papers will be graded. All paper grades will be factored equally into the final grade.