

Writing About Literature

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Sogang University
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Office Hours—Please see schedule on my office door. Also by appointment.

This course focuses on reading, understanding, and analyzing English literature. The central aim is to help students develop the skills necessary for writing academic papers in English and Cultural Studies. Though the course is called *Writing About Literature*, the subjects treated and the skills taught—the planning, organization, and composition of written essays—are those demanded in most kinds of formal written work.

Tentative Schedule: Themes	Writing Tasks	Written Assignments
Week 1. Course introduction.	Introductory paragraphs	
Week 2. Character.		
Week 3. Character.	Making an outline	
Week 4. Character/Setting.		Paper 1: Character
Week 5. Setting.	Titles	
Week 6. Setting.	Quotation marks	
Week 7. Consultations.		Paper 2: Setting
Week 8. Mid-term Examinations Week (No Class)		
Week 9. Metaphor.	Bibliographical methods	
Week 10. Metaphor.		Paper 3: Metaphor
Week 11. Metaphor/Theme.	Incorporating quotations	
Week 12. Theme.	Documentation methods	
Week 13. Theme.		
Week 14. Consultations		Paper 4: Research Paper
Week 15. Final Examinations Week.		

Textbook:

Roberts, Edgar V. *Writing About Literature*. Tenth Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2003. The cost is 19,000 won.

Texts to be studied likely include the following:

Guy de Maupassant, "The Necklace."
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Masque of the Red Death"
John Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"
Alfred Tennyson, "The Eagle"
William Shakespeare, Sonnet 116
Walt Whitman, "Reconciliation"
George Herbert, "Easter Wings"
Frank O'Connor, "First Confession"
Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"
William Blake, "The Tyger"

William Wordsworth, "Lines Written in Early Spring"
Anton Chekhov, *The Bear: A Joke in One Act*
Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*
And others.

Methods of Assessment:

*Students will write four papers on the topics covered on the course. Papers one and two will be two pages in length, and papers three and four three to four pages in length.

*See attached Submission Guidelines Handout for how to submit an essay to Dr. Butcher. Please follow these submission guidelines carefully.

*Submit your essays on time. **Late papers will be penalized ten points a day.** Due dates are given below in bold print because timeliness is important. Turning your paper in late will be very costly for your essay's grade and for your final grade also. Your essay due dates are as follows:

Paper 1—Wednesday, March 23rd

Paper 2—Friday, April 15th

Paper 3—Friday, May 6th

Paper 4—Friday, June 3rd

*There will be graded pop-quizzes on the reading assignments and possibly other graded homework assignments. Class attendance and class participation will also be of importance for your final grade. If you skip class, you are penalizing your final grade for this course. Come to class and don't skip. It's really simple.

*Each of the four essays counts 20%, and the class participation grade (quizzes, homework, class attendance, and class participation) also counts 20%.

*Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please see the attached Sogang University English departmental statement on plagiarism.

*Writing is a process. Often you will be asked to bring in your essay for peer grading. Writing is editing and thinking and revising and rewriting. Writing does not happen (usually) in one simple motion. Writing is a craft like any other. It must be practiced. You will experience frustration when you write, everyone does—it is the nature of the beast—but you will improve your writing skills this semester, if you come to class, listen to the teacher and ask questions, and do your best. Come see me if you have questions.

Good luck!