

Guidelines for 2100 *Writing about Literature*

In its meeting of November 8, 2005, the Undergraduate Studies Committee approved the following guidelines for the design and content of English 2100. All instructors of this course are expected to follow these guidelines which reflect the department's goals for the course as well as our expectations for the distribution of graded material. If you have questions about the guidelines or any other aspects of the course, please contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Literature Coordinator.

Course description as it will eventually appear in the catalog:

Instruction in the fundamentals of writing about literature for prospective English majors; emphasizes literary research, interpretation, and criticism. Course covers three or more literary genres. Prerequisite: English 1000 or equivalent.

1. Provide opportunities to hone interpretive and argumentative skills using at least three literary genres (poetry, non-fiction prose/essay, short fiction/novel, drama).
2. Includes readings that model a variety of critical/theoretical approaches to assigned texts (e.g. through the use of Norton Critical Editions, Bedford Contemporary Criticism Editions, or similar self-created reading assignments.)
3. Develop and practice literary research skills, through orientations with the Humanities Librarian or similar venue and applied research assignments.
4. At least 80% of the course grade must be determined by writing assignments with no more than 20% of the grade coming from in-class participation, short-answer reading quizzes, etc. Moreover, 50% of the course grade must be determined by "formal" writing (i.e. work which the student is expected to edit in accordance with the conventions for academic writing). This is to be completed in several formal writing assignments. Other, less formal writing assignments are encouraged and may include less structured in-class and on-line responses, essay exams, etc.
5. At least one formal research paper of 6-8 pages or a series of papers is required. The paper(s) must employ the use of the library databases and must involve both primary and secondary sources, MLA citation, etc. The paper writing process must incorporate opportunities for drafting and revision.