

ENC 1145-7426: Writing about Testimony and Memory in Victorian Culture

Syllabus – Course Objectives and Policies

Class Meetings: MWF, Period 8 (3:00-3:50), MAT 116

Instructor: J. Stephen Addcox

Email: stevexoc@ufl.edu

Course website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu> (e-Learning)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11am-2pm, Turlington 4367

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will use texts from 19th century British literature and culture as a conduit for writing about the intersections of testimony and memory within legal and psychological contexts. In *A Treatise on Judicial Evidence* (1825), Jeremy Bentham describes the problem of memory and evidence by pointing out that memories are both lost in forgetfulness as well as created through “false recollections” in which a person “without the slightest consciousness of his error” supposes something which never occurred actually took place. As such, what happens to testimony (and the evidence it relates) when memory fails? Can we trust memory to relate events properly (even when there is no incentive for deception)? How did the literature of this period approach these problems and questions? Throughout the class we will consider these questions and the texts that address them in order to frame our approach to argument and writing. Over the course of the semester, students will craft persuasive arguments around the topics and themes introduced in the course readings. We will review and discuss strategies for writing a thesis, organizing sentences and paragraphs, finding outside sources, and incorporating effective evidence into a well-crafted paper.

Required Texts and Materials

- Rossington and Whitehead, eds. *Theories of Memory: A Reader*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2007. ISBN: 9780801887291
- Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone*. Penguin, 1998. ISBN: 9780140434088
- Griffith, Kelley. *Writing Essays about Literature*. Thomson, 2006. ISBN: 1413003958
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson. *In Memoriam*. Norton, 2003. ISBN: 9780393979268
- Additional readings will be made available on e-Learning as PDF files. Students are expected to print their own copies of these readings and bring them to class on the days they are assigned.

University of Florida General Education Outcomes

Composition (C)

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition. For more information, see: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggened.html>.

Composition courses provide instruction in methods and conventions of standard written English (i.e. grammar, punctuation, usage) and the techniques that produce effective texts.

University Writing Requirement (WR E6)

This course can satisfy the UF requirement for Writing. For more information, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggordon.html>.

UF has recently instituted minus grades. As a result, letter grades now have different grade point equivalencies. For more information, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

***Note: You must earn a C or better in the course to receive Composition, Writing Requirement, or Humanities credit. A C- will not confer credit for these requirements.**

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

This course relies extensively upon discussion and interaction in class to facilitate learning. Consequently, **attendance is required**. Each unexcused absence after three (3) will lower your course grade by half a letter. Also, please be in class on time. If you know that you are going to miss a class, be prepared to turn your work in early. You are responsible for obtaining any notes or information from missed classes. Students who are absent for **university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, and religious holidays** will be excused. Prolonged absences, even for medical reasons, will not be excused, as discussion of reading & writing assignments is a key part of the course content.

Preparation & Late Work

You are expected to be prepared for every class, including completing all reading and writing assignments on time. Failure to be prepared for or to contribute to discussion will lower your participation grade. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. **Late work will be penalized one (1) letter grade for every calendar day the paper is late.**

Academic Honesty

All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. You commit plagiarism when you present the ideas or words of someone else as your own. Any student who plagiarizes all or any part of an assignment will receive no credit for that assignment. Remember, *you are responsible* for understanding the University's definitions of plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which are outlined at the website above.

Classroom Behavior

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. Diversified student backgrounds require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Any conduct that disrupts the learning process may lead to disciplinary action and a failing grade for the day.

Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php#s4041>

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Graded Materials

Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a re-submission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student's responsibility to have and make available this material.

Any complaint about separate assignments should be addressed to me and not to the English Department. If you have complaints about your final grade, you may see me at the beginning of the next term. If you find that you still have complaints after our meeting, you may express your complaints on a form in the English Department Office. A review committee may decide to raise, lower, or keep the originally-assigned grade. This decision is final. The material submitted will remain on file in the English Department Office.

ASSIGNMENTS

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| 1. Summary & Close Reading (1200 words) | - | 150 points |
| 2. Prospectus & Annotated Bibliography (1600 words)- | | 150 points |
| 3. Synthesis of Research (1200 words) | - | 200 points |
| 4. Research Paper (2500 words) | - | 250 points |
| 5. Response Papers | - | 100 points |
| 6. Reading Quizzes | - | 150 points |
| 7. Total Points | - | 1000 points |

FINAL GRADING SCALE

A 930-1000; A- 900-929; B+ 870-899; B 830-869; B- 800-829; C+ 770-799; C 730-769; C- 700-729; D+ 670-699; D 630-669; D- 600-629; E 599 or below

Daily Schedule – Reading and Writing Assignments

*NOTE: All reading and writing tasks are **due on the day** they appear on the syllabus. This schedule of assignments is subject to change at any time; it is your responsibility to keep informed of any updates, including when you are absent.*

Part I: Fear and Memory

Week One (January 6 – January 8)

- W - Course Intro
- Summary & Close Reading Essay Assigned (1200 words)

- F - Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* Chs. 1-6 (pp. 145-181)
- Writing about Literature, Chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-30)

Week Two (January 11 – January 15) **Drop/Add ends 1/11 @ Midnight**

- M - Turn of the Screw, Chs. 7-15 (pp. 182-221)
- Introduction, Theories of Memory (pp. 1-16)

- W - Turn of the Screw, Chs. 16-24 (pp. 222-262)

- F - Charles Dickens, “The Haunted House” (e-Learning handout)
- Writing about Literature, Ch. 3 (pp. 31-72)
- Response 1 Due

Part II: Memory and the Law

Week Three (January 18 – January 22) **No class on 1/18: MLK Day**

- W - Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone* I (pp. 1-87)

- F - Kieran Dolin, *Fiction and the Law*, Introduction (e-Learning handout)
- Wilkie Collins, Prefaces to *The Woman in White* (British and French)

Week Four (January 25 – January 29) [Reading Quiz 1]

- M - Moonstone II (pp. 87-197)

- W - Christopher Allen, *The Law of Evidence in Victorian England* (e-Learning handout)
- Jeremy Bentham, *The Rationale of Judicial Evidence*, Prospective, Chs. 8-10 (e-Learning handout)

- F - Theories of Memory (pp. 134-143)
- Ian Watt, *The Rise of the Novel*, pp. 31-34 (e-Learning Handout)
- Summary & Close Reading Rough Draft Due (in class submission)

Week Five (February 1 – February 5)

- M - Peer Review, Summary & Close Reading Rough Draft

- W - Moonstone III (pp. 201-315)

- F - Theories of Memory (pp. 69-84)
- Summary & Close Reading Revised Draft Due (Midnight deadline; e-Learning submission)

Week Six (February 8 – February 12)

- M - Moonstone IV (pp. 315-396)

- W - Writing about Literature, Chs. 7-8 (pp. 195-226)
- Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography Assigned (1600 words)

F - Writing about Literature, Ch. 11 (pp. 279-344)
- Response 2

Week Seven (February 15 – February 19)

M - Moonstone V (pp. 397-472)

W - Leo Tolstoy, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, Chs. I-VIII (pp. 1-40)

F - Kreutzer Sonata, Chs. IX-XVI (pp. 41-81)

Week Eight (February 22 – February 26) [Reading Quiz 2]

M - Theories of Memory (pp. 223-235)

W - Kreutzer Sonata, Chs. XVII-XXIII (pp. 82-124)

F - Kreutzer Sonata, Chs. XXIV-End (pp. 125-158)
- Prospectus & Bibliography Draft Due

Week Nine (March 1 – March 5)

M - Peer Review

W - Conferences

F - Annotated Bibliography Due

****Spring Break: March 8 – March 12****

Part III: Memory and Poetry

Week Ten (March 15 – March 19)

M - Writing about Literature, Ch. 5 (pp. 107-161)
- Synthesis Assigned

W - Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “In Memoriam” I (pp. 5-36)

F - Writing About Literature, Ch. 6 (pp. 163-193)

Week Twelve (March 22 – March 26)

M - In Memoriam II (pp. 36-67)
- Draft of Synthesis Due

W - Peer Review

F - Writing About Literature, Ch. 9 (pp. 227-242)
- Synthesis of Literature Due

Week Thirteen (March 29 – April 2) [Reading Quiz 3]

M - In Memoriam III (pp. 67-101)

W - Writing about Literature, Ch. 10 (pp. 245-277)

F - Robert Browning, “Porphyria’s Lover” and “My Last Duchess” (e-Learning handout)
- Response 3 Due

Week Fourteen (April 5 – April 9)

M - Ring and the Book, Book 7a

W - Discussion of Paper Topics

F - Ring and the Book, Book 7b
- Draft of Research Paper Due

Week Fifteen (April 12 – April 16)

M - Ring and the Book, Book 7c

W - Peer Review, Research Paper

F - Conferences

Week Sixteen (April 19 – April 21)

M - Conferences

W - Research Paper Due (e-Learning submission)