

HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE SUMMER PROJECT 2008 DR. NIGHAN

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ALL WORK r.nighan@gmail.com

THIS INSTRUCTION SHEET WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON LINE

ENROLLMENT IN HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE REQUIRES THE COMPLETION OF A SUMMER PAPER. IN AN HONORS CLASS, ONE WOULD EXPECT AT LEAST A GRADE OF B ON THE FINAL PRODUCT AS AN ADMISSION REQUIREMENT. THE PAPER IS GRADED IN TERMS OF HOW WELL THE CONTENT IS DEVELOPED AND RESEARCHED, AND YOUR WRITING: GRAMMAR, SPELLING, PUNCTUATION, PROPER FORMAT ETC.

The purpose of the paper is threefold:

1. To assess the development of critical thinking skills
2. To assess the ability to write coherently and logically
3. To assess the ability to conduct secondary source research and apply its specifics to the analysis of a primary source.

The specifics of the paper:

Choose ONE of the following major texts (these are the primary sources):

1. --Chaucer's Pardoner to include his description in the General Prologue; his own Prologue, his Tale and his Epilogue (all these must be considered)
2. --Shakespeare's play Othello
3. --Conrad's Heart of Darkness (novel)—this is especially challenging, and is offered for those of you who especially are motivated work on a difficult assignment

Procedures and Scope:

1. Write a paper that uses the MLA style sheet and is 2.5 to 3 pages long (not including the works cited page)
2. Develop a thesis paragraph that assumes a critical approach by narrowing the topic you choose to a specific provable point. The thesis must provoke in the reader the desire to read on by specifying what you will prove. Imagine you are a lawyer arguing to a jury...the thesis should be about 4 sentences long. The idea is to write a thesis suggesting the model: "X is true because....."
3. The body of the paper contains the following ratios:

--70% of the writing is your own material, you own words prove the thesis
--15% of the writing is directly quoting the primary source in support of your analysis—that is from Chaucer, Othello, or Heart of Darkness

--the remaining 15% is from the secondary source criticism you use to additionally support the thesis to be distributed as follows:

- a. one book about the poem, play or novel
 - b. one journal article about the poem, play or novel (Gale group MLA database, Advanced Search)
4. Short conclusion paragraph
 5. The works cited page follows the last page of text—MLA format
 6. Use MLA format for all quotes.
 7. The paper is double spaced with the title and heading according to MLA and with one-inch margins.

DEADLINES—

This paper will be due in stages, and it is absolutely necessary that you do not fall behind....I will require notification in advance of potential deadline problems, and these should be for a serious reason.

ALL PHASES EXCEPT THE LAST PHASE (DUE DATE) ARE EMAILED TO ME DIRECTLY. THE LAST PHASE (FINAL PRODUCT) WILL BE SENT TO TURNITIN.

1. preliminary thesis is due JUNE 9: Note: it is not uncommon to have the thesis paragraph revised 2 or 3 times before being accepted. You must have under the thesis paragraph at least 4 quotes from the primary source (Othello, or the Pardoner or Heart of Darkness) that you think best supports the thesis.
2. Research quotes are due on JUNE 23rd—you must have one quote from the book, one from the journal article, and one from the web page. This section of the submission must contain the full bibliographical information that will be in the works cited page of the final product. This phase must also contain the REVISED THESIS statement based on feedback from the first submission.
3. The draft is due on JULY 7th
4. The final product is due on July 25th, and will be submitted to TURINIT.COM. I WILL PROVIDE A CLASS ID AND PASSWORD LATER IN THE SUMMER.

HOW TO SUBMIT—please note: I want you to use an email address that has your LAST NAME AS THE SCREEN NAME. You can create one for free from AOL, YAHOO etc.

- 1. ALL WORK IS DUE BY EMAIL ON THE DUE DATE ABOVE BY MIDNIGHT**
- 2. THE FILE MUST BE IN MICROSOFT WORD ONLY. (DO NOT USE WORKS OR WORD PERFECT). YOU ATTACH THE FILE TO THE EMAIL—DO NOT PUT THE WORK INTO THE EMAIL WINDOW**

3. **THE FILE NAME IS YOUR LAST NAME.DOC SO (Smith.doc) NOT (paper.doc)**
4. **NEVER MAKE A NEW FILE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO. EACH SUBMISSION USES THE SAME FILE SENT PREVIOUSLY, WITH THE NEW WORK ADDED BELOW THE OLD. YOU MUST HAVE THE TOOLBAR IN WORD (REVIEWING) ACTIVATED TO READ THE COMMENTS.**
5. **NEVER put the work into the email. You must always send an attached file.**
6. **My email address is r.nighan@gmail.com**

NOTES:

1. **KEEP IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS—I WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL FOR CONFERENCES DURING THE SUMMER IF YOU WANT TO COME IN –EMAIL FOR A CONFERENCE.**
2. **I WILL SEND MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER. CHECK EMAIL FREQUENTLY**
3. **GENERALLY, THE THESIS, RESEARCH WORK WILL BE RETURNED RIGHT AWAY AFTER BEING READ. THE DRAFT WILL TAKE LONGER.**
4. **SAVE ALL RESEARCH (XEROX/ PRINTOUT) FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
5. **I WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE COMMENTS AND GENERIC EMAILS TO ALL OF YOU REGARDING THE WORK, RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS ETC.**