

### PAPER #3: LITERARY ANALYSIS (20%)

*Due Friday 5/3*

**For your third paper, you will write a 1200 word (minimum) analysis of a novel of your choice, focusing on a specific literary perspective.**

The job of a literary critic is to examine the meaning of a fictional work through their own personal lens, exploring the underlying themes, dissecting the characters, applying social or psychological theories to the text, or trying to learn more about the author or the author's culture through close study of their work.

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Choose a book — any book you want. I would prefer it if you chose a book that you haven't read before, so that you can branch out and discover something new.
- You will be playing the role of a literary critic with this book, discussing some aspect of the text that you find particularly interesting. Your central topic and overall approach are completely up to you, but here are a few possible examples of what you might do:
  1. Discuss a specific theme or moral that you found interesting, important, or even problematic in the story
  2. Analyze a specific character or characters (their psychology, their ethics, their connection to other characters, how they develop through the story, what character-type they could be categorized as, etc.)
  3. Examine the meaning of a recurring symbol or motif in the story
  4. Draw comparisons between this book and another work of literature/art
  5. Examine what this story tells us about the time and culture when this book was published, or what it might tell us about its author.
  6. Discuss the impact this book has had on our own culture — i.e. how it has been adapted over the years, what other works have been influenced by it, etc.

These are just a few ideas, but of course if you come up with an idea of your own that doesn't necessarily fit under any of these bullet points, that's fine! Your topic should be something that you personally find interesting.

Unlike Paper #1, your argument here will not about *proving you are right* (debate) but merely about *exploring ideas* (dialectic).

Once you have decided on a topic, start looking for **secondary sources** to help you in expanding on your ideas. These can be anything from critical reviews of the book, to biographies or interviews with the author, to psychological studies relevant to one of the characters... whatever works for you and your topic.

- As always, I recommend using the HCC library databases (and also the *actual* library) to find good sources, but you are not limited to only looking there. Just make sure that whatever sources you find, they are legitimate and authoritative scholarly sources.

- You are not allowed to use sites such as SparkNotes, Shmoop, eNotes, Gradesaver or LitCharts as sources. However, you could skim through them to look for inspiration for ideas, and use their suggestions for further reading to find good sources. Same goes for Wikipedia.

YOU MUST INCORPORATE AT LEAST **2 SECONDARY SOURCES** INTO YOUR PAPER.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FINAL PAPER:

- An introduction with a **clear thesis statement**, telling me exactly what aspect of the story you will be discussing throughout the paper, and what your opinions on the topic are.
- Incorporate several **direct quotes**, both from the novel and from your secondary sources. This paper should feature many direct quotes from the book especially, since direct quotes are essential to making a strong argument in literary criticism. All of your quotes and paraphrased information should be correctly **cited in MLA format**.
- Include a properly formatted **MLA style Works Cited Page** at the end. You are required to have **at least 3 sources in total**:
  1. The novel you chose to read (the primary source)
  2. At least 2 outside sources useful to your analysis (the secondary sources)

Obviously, you can have more sources than that, but these are the minimum requirements.
- 1200 words (minimum): Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced
- Include an MLA header on the first page, and page numbers in the top right corner
- **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE**. If you use an author's exact words, you must put them in quotation marks and cite your source. Otherwise, you must paraphrase (*put the ideas into your own words*).

#### DUE DATE (REQUIRED):

- Submit a short **proposal** for your paper online. This will be due on **Monday 4/15**.
- You must submit **both an online and hard copy of your final paper** by **Friday 5/3**.
  - The online copy helps me check your originality and word count. You will submit it online through the Turnitin.com assignment link. The hard copy is what I will actually mark up. If you aren't going to be in class on the day it's due, you still must make sure I get a copy of your paper on time (either physical or electronic). Anyone turning in a paper hours after class is over will have late points deducted. After midnight, I will not accept any papers at all, and you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment.

#### OTHER DUE DATES (OPTIONAL):

- You may email an electronic copy of your rough draft any time. However, I will not look at any rough drafts sent to me less than 24 hours before the final due date. And depending on the load of rough drafts I receive, I can't guarantee I will get around to looking at yours -- so send it early, if you really want my feedback!
- If you are dissatisfied with your grade, you may revise your paper again and turn it in to me any time before the end of the semester (5/12). You will also need to give me back the original final draft that I marked up, so that I can compare the two. How much work you put into revising your paper and following my comments will determine how much your grade on the paper improves.