

Final Essay

You have read the work of many authors this semester, but you have not read all the authors collected in our textbook, the Norton Anthology of English Literature. This is your opportunity to have some fun and read some authors of your choosing out of our class textbook.

Compose an original analysis of the literature of **two** authors in the Norton Anthology of English Literature whom you have **not** been assigned to read for this class in an essay of 1500 to 2500 words. The word count is total and covers what you have to say about **both** authors.

If you wish to read additional work of one author who you *have* been assigned to read this term, that is ok, so long as the work you choose has not been assigned this term. If you are intrigued by a brief excerpt you have read, you may read the full work as well from Project Gutenberg or some other external source. However, if you do this then your second author must be someone you have **not** been assigned to read for this class this semester.

Analyze at the very least the following for each author: one short story or essay; OR one novel, either in whole or excerpted; OR two short poems (less than two pages); OR one long poem (more than two pages); OR one play.

Complete the following four steps in your essay for **each author** (the grade percentage of each step is noted in the parenthesis).

1. Introduce your author and summarize the work of literature you have read. (10%)
2. Based on your readings of the Norton introductions and our online discussions, categorize the literary work you have read. What periods and/or movement/s does it belong to? (20%)
3. Compare and contrast the literary work you have read for **each author** with the literary work of two other authors we have read this term (four compare-and-contrasts total). (30%)
4. Interpret the literature you have read. What meaning do you get out of it? (30%)
5. Write in Standard American English, making appropriate use of grammar and style. (10%)

Thus, an outline for your paper may look like this:

- intro of author 1
- categorization of author 1
- compare and contrast of author 1 with two other authors
- interpretation of author 1
- intro of author 2
- categorization of author 2
- compare and contrast of author 2 with two other authors
- interpretation of author 2

Keep the following in mind as you write your final paper:

- This is not a research essay. This essay is a reflection of your own personal exploration of two authors. Thus, **this essay must be your own, original work, without referring to any outside sources or commentaries beyond those in the Norton Anthology and Norton online**. As with your main posts and responses, do **not** read any other external websites or books about your authors and their works. I need to see *your* ideas in your essay, not somebody else's.
- However, you may quote and paraphrase material internal to our course. The following are acceptable sources for your essay: the introductory essays in the Norton; the Norton website and any material linked to in my reading notes; my class lectures/reading notes; your fellow students' main posts and responses; and the work of any author whom you have read in the Norton.
- When you are paraphrasing or quoting, appropriately signal where your quotes and paraphrases are coming from with judicious use of signal words and phrases. If you copy phrases or sentences from the Norton then you must quote them and cite which page those passages come from in the Norton Anthology; if you don't, your paper grade will be lowered significantly for plagiarism. Format your quotes and citations in either MLA or APA style.
- Consult the Purdue OWL for MLA and APA style guides. These will show you how to quote and cite and MLA and APA style, as will the online Gordon College Handbook you used in English 1101/2. Here is the Purdue OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>.
- If the Norton presents only selections of the work you want to write about and you wish to read the full work, or if you want to read work beyond that collected in the Norton, you may use an external source such as a library or Project Gutenberg to access the full or additional text.
- Use present tense when writing about literature: <https://www.gutenberg.org/>.
- **Follow the essay format instructions posted below this assignment.**

Proposal (5 pts.). Due in the Proposal assignment folder on D2L. Late papers will not be accepted.

By the due date of the proposal, you should have skimmed through the Norton and identified at least two authors you wish to read. All you need to do by the proposal due date is post a brief paragraph in which you tell me who you are thinking of reading and why you chose them.

Final Essay (95 pts.). Due in the Final Essay folder on D2L. Late papers will not be accepted.