

English 100W (Fall 2009)
Dr. Katherine D. Harris

WRITING ABOUT FICTION

First Draft Due: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Essay Due: Thursday, November 12, 2009

Word Count: 1250 words + Works Cited

This essay moves us into writing about fiction. By the time you bring your first draft to class, you will have participated in three days of discussions about the novel, *Heart of Darkness*. Below are several topics concerning *Heart of Darkness*. For Essay 5, create an argument about one of these topics; since the questions are very broad, it is up to you to narrow the focus of your argument into something that can be completed in 1250 words (use details!).

First Draft

On Tuesday, November 10, email your first draft to me and bring a printed copy to class for our Writing Workshop. (Failure to submit your draft or bring a copy to class will result in the normal penalizations.) During this Writing Workshop, we will discuss strategies for writing about fiction as well as read each other's drafts for a peer review session.

Final Draft

On Thursday, November 12, submit your Essay 5 to Turnitin.com and bring a printed copy to class. This essay will be the basis for conducting research in the library and will be substantially revised in Essay 6. The more work you perform on Essay 5 to incorporate your ideas, the easier your revisions and the research will be for Essay 6.

You may not use any outside resources except *Writing About Literature*, the Harmon handbook or a dictionary – this assignment is really about you, your opinion and the novel. We will briefly review MLA style for citing dialogue from a novel; however, it is up to you to ensure that your essay contains proper MLA citation style as well as a properly formatted Works Cited.

Turning In Your Essay:

This essay is due on Thursday, November 12. Late papers will receive the penalization indicated on our syllabus. Failure to follow the below requirements will result in a lower grade.

- Submit to Turnitin.com
- Typed and double-spaced in 12pt font with one inch margins
- Works Cited page in MLA format
- In-text citations in MLA style (parenthetical citation)
- Name, date, course and section number typed at the top left corner of the first page
- Name and page number typed in upper right corner of every page following the first page
- Staple the pages together. (DO NOT FOLD OR PAPERCLIP YOUR PAGES.)
- Proofread everything before you turn it in; there should be no spelling or typographical errors.

Essay Topics:

1. In Joseph Conrad's novel, *Heart of Darkness*, Marlowe's narrative mentions two women who he suggests are linked to Kurtz in a romantic/sexual connection. Compare/contrast the opposing images of these two women and their suggested relationships to Kurtz. Discuss their importance to the narrative: why are they included in Marlowe's re-telling?
2. Usually in a novel, similar to a drama, an apparent hero emerges by its conclusion. In Joseph Conrad's novel, *Heart of Darkness*, who is the hero? Is there more than one hero? Make a case for either or all of the heroes.
3. What role does the imagery and landscape of Africa play in Joseph Conrad's novel, *Heart of Darkness*?
4. In Joseph Conrad's novel, *Heart of Darkness*, why does Marlow lie to the Intended?
5. What role does capitalism play in Joseph Conrad's novel, *Heart of Darkness*?