

## British Literature 1800 to Present

Engl 56B (Fall 2007)

Dr. Katherine D. Harris

### PRESENTATION PROJECT & SHORT ESSAY

There are several options for your Presentation Project and the Short Essay. Prior to our second class meeting, you need to inform me of your selection via email. Stragglers will be assigned to whatever is left open.

#### Rationale

The literature in this course is rich with historical, social, political and cultural references as well as being references themselves for later literature and film. For this presentation, students will work together in groups of 3 or less to present information on the authorship, publication, dissemination, reception, structure, characterizations, later references in art – any information that the group finds interesting enough to convey. It's the group's job to decide what is most important to show/tell the class, therefore be discerning about the information and *dynamic* about the presentation. Since the group will essentially begin our discussions for the day, the presentation needs to inspire students to read, discuss and generally find out more. Choose from the literature and presentation dates below:

#### Selections

<i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>	Present 9/4	Poetry
<i>Database of Mid-Victorian Wood-Engraved Illustrations</i>	Present 9/13	Online Archive
<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Present 9/20	Novel
<i>Rossetti Archive</i>	Present 10/2	Online Archive
<i>Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Present 10/4	Drama
<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>	Present 10/16	Novel
<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	Present 10/25	Novel
<i>The Dumb Waiter</i>	Present 11/1	Drama
<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	Present 11/6	Novel
<i>The Hours</i>	Present 11/13	Novel
<i>The Eyre Affair</i>	Present 11/20	Novel
<i>Patchwork Girl</i>	Present 11/27	Novel (on CD-Rom)
<i>Endless Nights</i>	Present 12/4	Graphic Novel

#### The Presentation (15 mins.)

During this 15 minute presentation, each student will present at least 5 minutes worth of information. The material should be presented cohesively; in other words, the presentation should clearly show that the group members have shared research, reviewed one another's work and integrated each other's presentations as seamlessly as possible. In the past students have used maps, film clips, songs, historical games, PowerPoint demonstrations and even websites to demonstrate and enhance their presentations and their grades. *If you need any audio/visual equipment, please ask me at least a week in advance.*

For the presentation's contents, first and foremost, each group needs to discuss how its literary piece fits into our discussions on British Literature. Research on the production and reception history needs to be included also. For instance: How was it written? In what form was it originally published? Can you show us an example? What did critics say about it? Who read it? (These questions are provided to help you with your research; not all need to be answered.) This portion should give the class a sense of the literature when it was originally published. You may also provide historical information: What political, social or cultural events are reference? Did the literary piece influence any parodies? Did it inspire any artwork or films? Is the author's background important to know? Don't just recite summaries or information from the novel's introductory pages; tell us what you found out about this literature. Excite us with your presentation. (Those presenting on Online Archives will take a slightly different path to

provide us with the reasons that the Archive is important.)

This presentation requires each group member to perform research either in the library or on the Web. Please be skeptical of any Web resources that are not included in our Online Resources. I have many background materials on these authors and their literature. For help on research, see the recommended text, *Research Guide for Undergraduates in English & American Literature*.

### **The Pre-Presentation Meeting**

Each group is required to meet with me at least 1 week prior to their presentation date. Consider this meeting a moment to discuss dilemmas, go over strategies or obtain more help with research and direction. Anticipate meeting for approximately 15 minutes. If the group needs to meet outside my office hours, you are welcome to schedule an appointment with me.

### **The Short Essay (4pp)**

Each group member is individually responsible for turning in a 4-page (max) essay on the day the group is scheduled to present. The essay will contain all of the elements that you presented but in greater detail and in a formal style (MLA style, including a Works Cited). See below for details about formatting your essay.

## **TURNING IN THE SHORT ESSAY**

Your essay needs to assess and analyze rather than simply summarize or describe. Using formal language, discuss your ideas and provide evidence through citation. Remember to look at the details: a character, image, scene, etc. Your critical voice is important here. Format requirements are below:

- 4 pages (max), typed and double-spaced in 12pt font with one inch margins
- Works Cited page (outside of the 4 pages) 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
- Submit to Turnitin.com for verification

## **GRADING**

You will receive two grades for this assignment:

- ***The first*** will assess your Presentation, which will be based on its effectiveness (preparation, comprehension, depth). Presentations will be based on the entire group performance so be sure to practice with your group members. A missing group member on the day of the presentation will lower this portion of the grade by one third.
- ***A second grade*** will be assigned to your written Essay, which will be based on your ability to communicate your ideas in a formal piece of writing (see the “Departmental Grading Policy” on the Greensheet). Failure to follow the above formatting requirements will result in a lower grade. Late papers will receive the penalization indicated on our Greensheet.