

Fall 2010 Seminar Project
19th Century Women's Literature

Requirements:

1. Choose a novel to read independently from the following. You **MUST** choose a book you have not read before!
 - A. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
 - B. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
2. Read and **ANNOTATE** a chapter of the work carefully, using the tools we have practiced in class to prepare for a seminar discussion and to write an analytical paper. You may want to highlight sections that support style, theme, and tone.
3. Participate in the online discussion on the WIKI. Refer to the due dates on your calendar, the WIKI calendar, the WIKI assignment page for each novel, and the individual pages for each novel. The calendar is also on the web site: linda.runyon.com.
4. After the WIKI discussions and library research, you will turn in a 5-7 page paper, **1 ½ spacing**, 12 point readable font (use Times New Roman or Arial). You will use APA documentation style. Please refer to your handouts on APA, an APA manual, or the Purdue OWL. Follow the information on embedding quotations for your paper. You will submit your paper to turnitin.com as well as a hard copy to me. Follow the directions for Turnitin.com
5. You will section your paper in the following way. Each section will be clearly marked—Introduction, Critical Articles, Style, Theme, Conclusion, and Biblical Allusion. These headings should be aligned left on the page--NOT CENTERED.
6. Follow the instructions for each section in the boxes that follow. Suggested page lengths are given. Remember these are suggestions only. Your paper may be longer—but not much shorter.
7. Make sure you follow the directions for APA title pages, page numbers, and the running head.
8. You **MUST** have an original title for your paper *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* are already taken--do NOT use them.

Introduction

A. An introduction of some substance. Include the novel's title, author, setting, and date of publication. It may also mention the historical/political/philosophical background and/or a statement of the work's place in literary history. Be sure your introduction leads into a thesis statement which gives an opinion about the theme(s) and/or purposes of the work that subsequent sections of the paper will support. Your thesis should not make a qualitative statement about the work's worth as literature, but should focus on meaning. Above all, the thesis will be a generality to which all subsequent sections of the discussion are subordinate and immediately relevant. (1/2-1 page)

Critical Articles

B. A summary of two *scholarly* critical articles. The articles should be as current as possible. Do not grab the first articles you find; there are great articles, there are not so great articles. Plan on reading several articles to find ones that best illuminates your book. You need to complete this reading BEFORE your scheduled seminar date so that you can have access to its ideas during discussion. Attach a photocopy of the articles to the back of your paper so I can read them. After summarizing the articles, agree or disagree with its major assertions. (2 pages)

Style

C. A discussion of the author's style in one representative passage of your choosing. Although style is the writer's voice and personality shining through the work, you must approach an analysis and presentation of this topic on a somewhat mechanical level—**an analysis of sentence structure and diction and how they work to contribute to the work's theme(s)**. Consider the variety and types of sentences (use syntax handout) with an analysis of the effect of such sentences. Look for patterns in the kind of diction used. Identify a specific tone or tonal shifts created through diction. Irony is frequently a result of stylistic technique. Word choices may convey emotional effects, sensuous qualities, or even a bombastic or learned tone. Recognizing literary style and its effect is one of the most difficult and illusive subjects to approach. Remember the author is making choices in her use of language and how she structures sentences which contributes to an overall effect.. Attach a copy of the passage you've selected to analyze. at the end of your paper. (1- 1 1/2 pages)

Theme

D. An explication of the novel's theme, the abstract concept that becomes concrete through its representation in person, action, and imagery in the work. The theme may generalize about the human condition, an individual's place in the universe, how people act under trying circumstances, or people's relationship with one another or with society. Consider both the author's purpose in writing the novel and the elements of the work that support or reveal that purpose. Two approaches to theme may be useful. Identifying the major conflict, recognizing the point at which the different elements of the conflict come together in the novel's climax, and determining what the resolution of that climax suggests will lead to an understanding of theme. Another path, particularly in the case of a highly symbolic novel, lies in tracing patterns of recurrent images throughout the work and in recognizing how these patterns function symbolically and thematically. Also use the "theme" analysis sheet to help you. (1- 2 pages)

Literary Allusion

E. In addition to the requirements above, find four or five biblical allusions connected thematically to your novel. You must copy the passages which contain the allusions (please include chapter and page number), and connect the allusion to your theme. You need to analyze the allusions in terms of the author's purpose in using them and their effectiveness. The copies of the allusions need to be at the end of your paper after the style passage. (1/2 to 1 page)

Conclusion

F. A conclusion that draws together all points of discussion. This section may call attention to the work's universality or even to its literary excellence. If the conclusion begins with a paraphrase of the thesis in section one, the remaining statements are echoes of other points in the introduction and key elements from the body of the discussion. **At the conclusion of this discussion, please provide a succinct, yet insightful thematic statement to close.** (1/2 -1 page)

Finally, if you want to schedule a conference with me about your project before your seminar date, please do the following:

- Sign up on the conference sheet.
- Be certain you have finished or nearly finished your novel.
- Be certain you have read these instructions carefully—in other words, do not start your conference with "I don't know what you want." I have carefully spelled out what I want. My running out of conference times does not excuse your work being due on schedule.