

INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE:

The *Independent Study Unit* prepares students for university writing, university seminars, further develops formal analysis skills, and offers a forum for well-supported, independent argument.

Your Independent Study Unit will focus on one novel.

If you would like to choose a novel not on either list, the teacher must approve it.

OUTLINE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Once you choose your novels, consider the four assignments you will complete for this unit.

1. Reading Conference #1:

- As you read, create annotations, (sticky notes help!) to track various literary elements in the novel. Use the information in Assignment One to focus your notes.
- Build personal connections between your own experiences and that of the novel
- We will then conference 1 to 1 about your novel and it will be a portion of your process mark

2. Thesis Conference

- You will outline your thesis proposal after your novel
- Outline which criticism studied in class that you plan to apply to your novel study
- You will conference/interview with me to ensure you're on the right track

3. Outline and Process Work Submission

- You submit at minimum your essay outline for approval
- You can submit other process work at this time for evaluation (See your rubric)

4. Each student will write a literary analysis essay of 1500 and 2000 words that will

- Be based on one novel and one literary criticism studied in class.
- Evaluate the novel from a given perspective
- Conform to MLA Standards
- **Essay should be 6 - 8 pages** (Note: do not rely on your word processor word count. University length calculations are based on a base of 250 words per page and do not include quotations).

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION:

	DEADLINE	TASK	MARKS
1.	February 7 th	Novels Chosen/Approved by teacher	
2.	April 24 th	Reading Report/Conference #1	40% of Process (5%)
3.	TBA	Thesis Proposal and Directional Statement: Conferencing/Interviews with Teacher	20% of Process (5%)
4.	TBA	Detailed Essay Outline and All Process Work	40% of Process (5%)
5.	June 6 th	FINAL COPY OF ESSAY 1500-2000 word essay (6-8 typed pages) Application of Literary Criticism	50% of Final Exam (15%)

****Independent Study Unit is worth 15% of total mark***

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Carefully read the outline and information for each assignment. A rubric is provided for each of the four assignments to assist you in ensuring all steps are followed and all expectations are met.
2. Hand in rubrics with each component of the Independent Study Unit
3. Take notes as you read. These will come in handy as you conference with me.
4. Due dates, including presentation dates, cannot be rescheduled without the permission of the principal and teacher. You are also expected to attend other students' presentation dates.
5. Please ensure any issues are communicated to me as soon as possible. Waiting until the last minute is not acceptable.

ASSIGNMENT 1: READING REPORT CONFERENCE

The Assignment

Note-taking is an integral part of the study of a novel and response journals provide a way for readers to write about their reactions to something they have read. In the journal, students are asked to critically analyze literary elements and make connections to their first ISU text. Students will use post-it notes in their text to write the journal. You should include a variety of quotes from your novel that you think are important throughout your journal.

During the one to one conference you will present, and explain your reading to this point. You will reflect and analyse what you are reading and provide an idea of where you think you want to go for your essay.

The Format

- Your journal must have a minimum of 10 entries, but you should use it every time you read
- You need to make connections to self, text, and world throughout the journal
- Be concise
- The language must be academic
- Make connections to literary criticisms we have studied

Some Other Topics You Could Discuss

Character

- An analysis of the main character (attitude, philosophy, motivation)
- Relationship with others
- A character as a symbol or representation of an idea
- How the author develops characterization, or the revelation of character traits
- Does a character speak for the author? Reveal or represent themes?
- Does the character change as a result of the events in the text? How?
- **Personal Connection:** What does the text have to do with you personally?

Setting

- How is the theme developed through the use of setting(s)?
- What is the setting's impact on character(s), their actions, attitudes, etc.?
- What is the setting's impact on the struggles or conflicts that exist?
- Are aspects of the setting symbolic?
- Does the author use figurative language to help create the setting? Is it effective?
- Do recurring images run through the novel? Explain the purpose of each.
- **Personal Connection:** What is your overall reaction to the text in relation to setting?

Theme

- What is the central purpose of the story?
- Is the author making a moral statement?
- What is (s)he saying about life? How is the theme portrayed?
- Why did the author write this story? What message did (s)he want to express?
- How is the theme revealed through the other literary elements? Does the setting contribute to the theme? Does the conflict involve a greater message that applies to the human condition?
- **Personal Connection:** What is your overall reaction to the text in relation to theme?

Mood

- A description of mood as it appears throughout the work or within a specific section of the work
- An analysis of how the author achieved this mood (setting, dialogue, humour, irony)
- An explanation of the impact of the mood on the work's theme or on other literary elements
- **Personal Connection:** How much does the text agree or clash with your view of the world and what you consider right and wrong?

Conflict

- What is the central conflict and what type of conflict is it (i.e. person vs. person)?
- What are the minor conflicts and how do they relate to the central plot?
- What events contribute to the working out of the conflict?
- Where does the climax occur? Is it effective?
- What does the resolution of the conflict reveal about the author's main messages or themes?
- What is the incident that triggers the conflict?
- **Personal Connection:** How well does the text address things that you care about and consider important in the world?

READING JOURNAL CONFERENCES - RUBRIC AND MARKS:

Criteria	Level 1 (50 – 59%)	Level 2 (60 – 69%)	Level 3 (70 – 79%)	Level 4 (80 – 100%)
Knowledge Do you demonstrate knowledge of important aspects of your novel?	You demonstrate limited knowledge of important aspects of the novel.	You demonstrate some knowledge of important aspects of the novel.	You demonstrate considerable knowledge of important aspects of the novel.	You demonstrate thorough knowledge of important aspects of the novel.
Thinking Do you make connections to self, text, and world?	You make few connections to self, text, and world.	You make some meaningful connections to self and either text or world.	You make considerable meaningful connections to self, text and world.	You make detailed, thought provoking connections to self, text and world.
Communication Do you communicate your understanding orally and in written form clearly?	You demonstrate a limited ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.	You demonstrate some ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.	You demonstrate a considerable ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.	You demonstrate a thorough ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.
Application Do you reflect on your novel?	You have 5 – 6 detailed journal entries with limited depth.	You have 7 – 9 detailed journal entries with some depth.	You have 10 journal entries that are detailed and demonstrate depth of thought.	You have more than 10 journal entries that are detailed and demonstrate depth of thought.

ASSIGNMENT TWO: THESIS PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

The Assignment

You will complete information listed below and schedule a meeting with the teacher to conference your area of focus, your novel progress, and your thesis. Come prepared!

EXPECTED FORMAT

The following format should be followed:

Name:

Course:

Teacher:

Date:

Thesis Proposal and Directional Statement:

1. Citation of your novel. Your entries must follow MLA Style, and it *must* contain the proper punctuation, *including indentation on the second line*:

Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publishing Company's Name, Date of Publication.

2. In ONE well-developed, formal, expository paragraph describe the literary criticism that you are applying to your novel. Provide detailed information about why/how this criticism is important both to your novel and society.

3. Thesis Statement – explains in one sentences what it is you will explore and ultimately prove about your text in your 1500-2000 word literary, analysis essay. (You may offer two proposed theses if you are as yet undecided on one).

4. Directional Statement – list **4 to 6** key points (questions from your literary criticism) you will utilize to prove your argument. You *must* then provide an example for each as to how each will be employed to illustrate and support your argument.

ASSIGNMENT TWO – THESIS PROPOSAL Conference - RUBRIC AND MARKS:

Criteria	Level 1 (50 – 59%)	Level 2 (60 – 69%)	Level 3 (70 – 79%)	Level 4 (80 – 100%)
Knowledge Do you demonstrate knowledge of important aspects of your novel?	You demonstrate limited knowledge of important aspects of the novel.	You demonstrate some knowledge of important aspects of the novel.	You demonstrate considerable knowledge of important aspects of the novel.	You demonstrate thorough knowledge of important aspects of the novel.
Thinking Do you demonstrate an ability to provide examples of how you will use your literary criticism?	You have few examples from the book as to how your criticism will be used.	You have some examples from the book as to how your criticism will be used.	You have considerable examples from the book as to how your criticism will be used.	You have many examples from the book as to how your criticism will be used.
Communication Do you communicate your understanding orally and in written form clearly?	You demonstrate a limited ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.	You demonstrate some ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.	You demonstrate a considerable ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.	You demonstrate a thorough ability to communicate your understanding and analysis.
Application Does your thesis meet the Thesis Success Criteria?	Your thesis does not fully meet the Thesis Success Criteria.	Your thesis meets most of the Thesis Success Criteria.	Your thesis fully meets the Thesis Success Criteria.	Your thesis not only fully meets the Thesis Success Criteria, but demonstrates depth in terms of applying your Literary Criticism.

COMMENTS:

ASSIGNMENT THREE: THE ESSAY

Using your ISU novel, complete a formal literary analysis essay. This will be an analysis of significant literary elements in your novel by applying one literary criticism we have studied in class. Your essay must follow a logical progression and use direct quotations and examples as support for your arguments. Current MLA guidelines must be followed.

- One peer/self-edit must be completed and checked by the teacher for process marks. These edits must be kept by the student until the final essay is marked and returned, in the event the teacher needs to refer to them again.
- Length of Essay: 1500-2000 words (6 - 8 pages)

How to Write a Literary Analysis Essay

I recommend searching for outline techniques, samples of essays, and other “how to write” guides to assist you with this step. See me if you need help!

When writing a literary analysis, you will answer the question: *So What?*

In writing this type of essay you are choosing 1 Literary Criticism we have studied: *Feminist, Marxist, Psychoanalytical, Historical*; however **you must NOT choose Reader Response** :

1. Choose your criticism
2. Choose the questions you want to ask of your novel
3. Answer those questions
4. Create a thesis
5. Follow the Essay Writing Process

Remember that a literary analysis is organized, structured and a clear analysis that draws conclusions not only on what the message of the author is about your topic, but allows you the reader to make important connections to the text and conclude what message the text is sending about our world today or when it was written.

ISU Essay Rubric

Criteria	Level 1 (50 - 59%)	Level 2 (60 - 69%)	Level 3 (70 - 79%)	Level 4 (80 - 100%)
<p>Knowledge</p> <p>Do you demonstrate an understanding of important aspects of your novel?</p> <p>Do you demonstrate an understanding of the literary criticism you chose?</p>	<p>You demonstrate a limited understanding of important aspects of your novel.</p> <p>You do not clearly explain your literary criticism.</p>	<p>You demonstrate some understanding of important aspects of your novel.</p> <p>You somewhat explain your literary criticism.</p>	<p>You demonstrate a considerable understanding of important aspects of your novel.</p> <p>You explain, with considerable detail, your literary criticism.</p>	<p>You demonstrate a thorough understanding of important aspects of your novel.</p> <p>You demonstrate a deep understanding of your literary criticism.</p>
<p>Thinking</p> <p>Do you choose appropriate information from your novel to support your argument?</p> <p>Do you use research that meets the Research Success Criteria to support your argument?</p>	<p>You limited information from your novel to support your argument (summaries only)</p> <p>You conduct limited research to support your argument (1 - 2 sources)</p>	<p>You use some information from your novel to support your argument (summaries and 1 - 2 good quotations)</p> <p>You conduct some research to support your argument (2 - 3 good sources)</p>	<p>You use considerable information from your novel to support your argument (summaries and 3 - 4 good quotations)</p> <p>You conduct considerable research to support your argument (3 - 4 good sources)</p>	<p>You use a variety of information from your novel to support your argument (you analyze summarized information and use a variety of quotations)</p> <p>You conduct significant research to support your argument (more than 5 good quality sources)</p>
<p>Communication</p> <p>Does your essay meet the Essay Success Criteria?</p> <p>Is your essay free of grammar and spelling errors?</p>	<p>Your essay meets few of the Essay Success Criteria.</p> <p>You have many grammar and spelling errors.</p>	<p>Your essay meets some of the Essay Success Criteria.</p> <p>You have some grammar and spelling errors.</p>	<p>Your essay meets all of the Essay Success Criteria.</p> <p>You have few grammar and spelling errors.</p>	<p>Your Essay exceeds the Essay Success Criteria.</p> <p>You have 0 grammar and spelling errors.</p>
<p>Application</p> <p>Do you apply your literary criticism effectively?</p> <p>Do you draw significant conclusions about your novel and its message from the perspective of</p>	<p>You apply your chosen literary criticism with limited effectiveness.</p> <p>You demonstrate a limited ability to evaluate your novel from a given</p>	<p>You apply your chosen literary criticism with some effectiveness.</p> <p>You demonstrate some ability to evaluate your novel from a given</p>	<p>You apply your chosen literary criticism with considerable effectiveness.</p> <p>You demonstrate a considerable ability to evaluate your novel from a given</p>	<p>Your application of your chosen literary criticism demonstrates depth of analysis and critical thought.</p> <p>You evaluate your text thoroughly and draw thoughtful and unique conclusions based on</p>

your literary criticism?	perspective.	perspective.	perspective.	sound reasoning.
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