

INTERPRETING LITERATURE

DAVID SCOTT WILSON-OKAMURA ENGLISH 2000 AUTUMN 2009 EAST CAROLINA UNIV.

- Aug. 26 W Are all interpretations valid? How do interpretations differ from opinions?
28 F William Wordsworth, "Lines: Composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey"
31 M William Wordsworth, "Lines: Composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey" (cont.)
Sept. 2 W William Blake, "The Lamb," "The Chimney Sweeper," "Auguries of Innocence"
4 F William Blake, "The Clod & the Pebble," "The Sick Rose," "The Tyger," "The Garden of Love,"
"A Poison Tree"
7 M **Labor Day**
8 T **First paper due**; Sir Walter Scott, "The Minstrel," "Lochinvar," "Coronach," "Lucy Ashton's
Song"
9 W George Gordon, Lord Byron, "She Walks in Beauty," "The Destruction of Sennacherib," "Lines
on Hearing that Lady Byron was Ill"
11 F G. K. Chesterton, "The Rolling English Road," "Femina Contra Mundum," "A Certain Evening"
14 M M. R. James, "Two Doctors" (Byatt 97)
16 W Charlotte Mew, "A White Night" (Byatt 139)
18 F Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"
21 M Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"
23 W Ronald Firbank, "A Tragedy in Green" (Byatt 233)
25 F Sylvia Townsend Warner, "A Widow's Quilt" (Byatt 243)
28 M **Second paper due**; Thomas Babington Macaulay, "Horatius"
30 W John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"
Oct. 2 F John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
5 M Aldous Huxley, "Nuns at Luncheon" (Byatt 250)
7 W Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "The Lotos-Eaters," "Ulysses"
9 F Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets from the Portuguese* XIV and XLIII;
Robert Browning, "Two in the Campagna"
12 M **Fall Break**
14 W Robert Browning, "Fra Lippo Lippi"
16 F Robert Browning, "The Bishop Orders his Tomb at St. Praxed's Church"
19 M **Library research**
21 W Christina Georgina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"
23 F T. H. White, "The Troll" (Byatt 345)
26 M Thomas Hardy, "The Going," "I Found Her Out There," "The Voice"
28 W William Butler Yeats, "Sailing to Byzantium," "Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop"
30 F Rosamond Lehman, "A Dream of Winter" (Byatt 286)
Nov. 2 M Elizabeth Taylor, "The Blush" (355)
4 W **Third paper due**; George Gordon, Lord Byron, selections from *Don Juan* (CVIII–CXCVI)
6 F John Fuller, "Telephone" (Byatt 396) and Angela Carter, "The Kiss" (Byatt 400)
9 M W. H. Auden, "Lullaby," "As I Walked Out One Evening"
11 W W. H. Auden, "September 1, 1939"
13 F W. H. Auden, "Atlantis"
16 M Rose Tremain, "The Beauty of the Dawn Shift" (Byatt 403)
18 W D. H. Lawrence, "The Man who Loved Islands" (Byatt 210)
20 F D. H. Lawrence, "End of Another Home Holiday," "The Ship of Death"
23 M Charles Dickens, "The Haunted House" (Byatt 18)
25 W **Thanksgiving Holiday**
27 F **Thanksgiving Holiday**

30	M	Edward Thomas, "The Owl," "At the Team's Head-Brass," "Thaw"
Dec. 2	W	Philip Larkin, "Deceptions," "No Road"
4	F	Philip Larkin, "An Arundel Tomb," "Going, Going"
7	M	Fourth paper due

REQUIRED TEXTS

Wain, John, ed. *The Oxford Anthology of English Poetry*. Vol. 2: Blake to Heaney. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990. ISBN 978-0-19280422-8.

Byatt, A. S., ed. *The Oxford Book of English Short Stories*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998. ISBN 978-0-19-956160-5.

REQUIREMENTS

Written assignments must be typed and are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments delivered after that will receive a lower grade. (For instance, an A- essay that is delivered up to 24 hours late will receive a B+, an A- essay that is delivered between 24 and 48 hours late will receive a B, and so on.)

Reading Quizzes (20%). Reading quizzes are scheduled randomly. If you read for comprehension, you will find them laughably easy. Each quiz is worth 1% and there will be 21 quizzes. *There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.* However, because there is an extra (21st) quiz, you can miss one quiz without harming your grade. Think of it as a free pass: you can use it to go to the beach, or you can use it when you're sick. Because this system is based on numbers, you don't need to explain why you missed class. Just do it: the math will take care of it, automatically. Of course, you'll still be responsible for the material discussed in class. But once you've used that free pass, it's gone! Forever! My advice is, save it for when you're sick or need to attend court. But I leave that to you.

Recitations (10%). Part of becoming intimate with a poem is learning it by heart. For this course, you will need to memorize and recite two poems. Both poems must rhyme. Minimum length: fourteen lines each. No song lyrics, please. These rules are simple but absolute. Recitations will be given during office hours; a schedule will be posted online at the beginning of the semester. Grades will be assigned on the following basis: you know the poem, but stumble your way through it and don't observe the meter = C range; you know the poem letter-perfect and observe the meter, but haven't done much with pauses, emphasis, tone = B range; you know the poem letter-perfect, observe the meter, and dramatize it with your voice = A range. Don't memorize a poem you don't understand; we'll chat afterwards about what it means, so be prepared.

Essays (70%). For this course you will submit four essays; due dates are given above. Each essay should be 1,800 to 2,000 words in length; its subject should be a story, poem, or group of poems from one of the assigned anthologies; and at least two of the essays should be about poems. If you have trouble finding a topic, come to my office hours and bring some ideas; we'll sort through them together and I'll help you frame the argument.

- Essays should be typed, include a list of works cited, and follow the citation format specified in the *MLA Handbook* (available on the web or at the library reference desk, LB2369.G53.1999).
- When you're done, do a word count and write the result on the first page of your paper. Word count should not include such things as long quotations and list of works cited.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you have trouble with these, I recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin.
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman (or a similar font of the same size).

Midterm and Final Exams. There will be no midterm or final exams in this course.

Please don't read, send, or monitor **text messages** in class. Please do turn off your **cell phone ringer** before class begins. **Laptops** might be helpful in some classes, but not this one. When we are thinking hard about language, the glorious, wireless, always-available internet is a distraction to you and the people who sit behind you. If you do bring a laptop to class, please leave it in your bag.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words—or ideas—in such a way that a reader cannot readily distinguish them from your own work. That's cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask me about it before your paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. The penalty for plagiarism is an automatic F for the course, in addition to whatever penalty the University sees fit to impose.

IMPORTANT TIMES, PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES

Office: Bate 2137

Office hours: MWF 1:00–2:40. This overlaps two class periods; if you have class during both times, grab me after class or call me on the telephone and we'll set up an appointment. My home number is in the book but, please, no phone calls after 9:00 pm.

Email: Instead of emailing me and exchanging messages, come to office hours and we'll have a conversation.