AML 2020: American Literature 1885-Present

Project Two: Critical Reaction Response, Literary Analysis Paper, and Research Expo

Part I: Critical Reaction Response: Using the library’s databases, students will locate a critical article (secondary source) that addresses at least one of the literary works they intend to address in their research paper. After reading the article, students will compose a 500-word critical reaction response. The critical reaction response should consist of a brief summary of the article, including its argument and main points, and your reaction to the author’s argument. Reactions should focus on your agreement or disagreement with the author’s argument, as well as the reasons for your reaction. This assignment should adhere to the “Requirements for Formal Writing Assignments” (4).

Part II: Literary Analysis Paper: Students will write a paper on a specific literary device, literary movement, thematic element, ethical issue, or issue of identity (e.g., class, gender, ethnicity, or sexuality) in at least two works on the syllabus, showing an awareness of a possible range of interpretations. The paper must make appropriate use of relevant literary terms. The paper should also include support for its thesis statement from at least two peer-reviewed sources. Students will receive peer and instructor comments on an original essay of at least 1,200 words. Using comments from both peers and the instructor, students will revise the paper and submit a final draft of at least 1,750-2,000 words.

Students will also be provided a specific list of potential topics from which to choose.

Part III: Research Expo (5% of the Grade for Project Two)
Students will share their research projects with their peers and the broader HCC Brandon Campus Community at a research exposition. The Research Expo provides students with an enhanced opportunity to take pride in their work by sharing it with peers and other members of the HCC community. Students are encouraged to create a brief (6-8 slides) PowerPoint or Prezi for the expo, but posters (inexpensive posters sold at local retail stores) are an acceptable form for presenting research as well. The visual aid should include the title of the student’s project; the student’s research question, thesis statement, and major findings; as well as any school of interpretation that helped the student analyze his or her literary text(s). Full credit will be
assigned to visual aids that meet all of the requirements, half credit will be assigned to visual aids that only meet some of the requirements, and no credit will be assigned for incomplete or missing visual aids. A program with all students’ names and project titles will be printed and distributed in advance; students may keep the program to share with others and/or, as appropriate, for future reference on a resume.

Please review the handout for the “Research Paper and Research Expo” (distributed in class and posted on Canvas) for further details.

_Assessment_: The intermediate and final drafts of the learning outcomes assignments will be evaluated in the following assessment categories: Focus, Evidence, Organization, Style, and Format.

_Requirements for Formal Writing Assignments_

All essays should adhere to MLA conventions and format. Please use 12-point font and double space your paper, including its heading and the entries on the Works Cited Page. All essays should include in-text citations and a Works Cited Page. **Essays that do not include in-text citations cannot earn score higher than a 0/ F since the omission of in-text citations to document one’s sources constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, any student who submits more than one essay in any stage (i.e., intermediate or final draft) that does not include in-text citations will be dismissed from the course and receive an F in it.** These occurrences may also result in further disciplinary action, as outlined in Section IV.A of the HCC Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure.

Essays without a Works Cited Page cannot receive either comments or a grade until the Work Cited Page has been received (keep in mind that the penalty for late papers is 10 points per calendar day, and late essays cannot be received more than five calendar days after the deadline).

Please review the attached MLA handout as well as the sample paper, and **ask me any questions you have about in-text citations and/or Works Cited Pages.**