

English 399W: Dreams

English Honors Seminar, Spring 2007

Section 0828: T 6:30 – 9:20 / PH 231

Section 0829: W 1:40 – 4:30 / PH 245

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T & W, 4:30 – 6:00



The interpretation of dreams is the royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind.
–Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900)

**You must empty yourself for sleep. And before you are emptied for sleep, what are you.
And when you are emptied for sleep, you are not.
And when you are filled with sleep, you never were.**
–William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (1930)

In the spring seminar, we will build on and develop ideas about the art and science of dreaming we explored in the fall. You will revise and polish your Honors Essays, then edit and re-shape them for publication in our course web project and for a public delivery at the English Honors Conference in May. We will spend class time workshoping each stage of revision, and we will continue to use the blogs to write about our dreams informally and reflect on them through the lens of course material. We will also spend class time—and blog space—preparing for the Honors Exam (including the essay and identification sections). Any new reading will be directly tied to course projects (the web project or conference) or the exam. All of these activities will be an opportunity to develop and deepen your knowledge and understanding of the questions about dreams and to join ongoing conversations among artists, writers, psychologists, and neurobiologists about the origins, functions, meanings, and influences of the imagined worlds we inhabit nightly.

Texts

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Volumes 1 & 2

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volumes 1 & 2

*You may substitute equivalent anthologies, but you should show them to me first, to be sure they include the materials you'll need to study of the Honors Exam. All other readings available on Blackboard, under "Course Documents."

Spring Requirements

Course Web Project	30%
Honors Exam Study Guides	20%
Honors Essay Peer Review Responses	10%
Blogs (other than Honors Exam Study Guides)	20%
Class Participation	20%
Revised Honors Essay	Required but not graded
Honors Exam	Required but not graded
Honors Conference Presentation	Required but not graded

Blackboard

On our **Blackboard** site, you will find handouts, essay assignments, models of student essays, and a list of useful links. You will also submit some of your assignments on Blackboard. (See https://blackboard-doorway.cuny.edu/?new_loc=/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp; log in using your CUNY Portal Username and password.)

Dream Blogs

For the spring semester, we will continue our dream blogs—but also use the blogs to share materials for the Honors Exam and the May conference. We will use the “**Categories**” function to tag posts that relate to either the exam or the conference. (We’ll go over this in class.) **As in the fall, each student must post a minimum of two blog entries and two comments on others’ entries per week. Please post more if you’re having interesting dreams you want to document and share! (See semester calendar below for details.)** Again, the blogs are intended to give you a place to write informally, communicate with an audience in mind, experiment with ideas and styles of writing, digest ideas we explore in the course, and accumulate a collection of your own dreams for interpretation. Approach the blogs informally and creatively. When I evaluate them, I will be looking for sincere effort and critical engagement, not polish, structure, or mechanics.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are necessary in order for us to form a productive classroom community, where we all learn from each other. I understand that life will make an occasional absence necessary. Whenever possible, please inform me in advance if you will be absent. In general, plan to attend every class meeting and to arrive on time. Keep in mind also that attendance and participation will comprise a significant portion of your course grade.

Essay Guidelines & Academic Integrity

All your formal writing should be typed, double-spaced, with 1” margins. Please proofread carefully, so that your essay is polished and free of typographical errors. Give every essay a title and include your name as well as the course name and number. Be sure to include a list of works cited. Use MLA guidelines (see link on Blackboard) for citing sources and constructing your works cited list. We will discuss my expectations in class, but in general I expect essays to contain serious thought, analysis, and reflection, not simply summary or description.

A student’s work should be his or her own. But a student’s ideas should also engage the ideas of other thinkers and writers. Communication gives ideas meaning and creates a community of thinkers. This is where citation and plagiarism can become tricky. Plagiarism is, of course, a serious issue. It is important that you establish your own point of view, make it clear what ideas are yours and which come from your sources, and respond to your sources critically. Be sure also to cite all sources appropriately, using MLA style. Finally, if you’re struggling with your ideas, your writing, or your sources, be sure to talk to me.

Plagiarism sometimes arises from confusion and sometimes from desperation. I can help you work through problems before they escalate.

SPRING SEMESTER CALENDAR

Tuesday 1 – 30 / Wednesday 1 - 31

Overview of spring projects; Honors Exam study guides; writing groups meet
Blog 1: A Dream, Blog 2: A Dream

Tuesday 2 - 6 / Wednesday 2 - 7

First workshop on reading and writing about poetry
Reading: R. L. Barth, “Teaching Meter to the Reader,” Sally Jacobsen, “Philip Levine on Teaching Poetry: An Interview”
Review (and bring to class) Richardson’s “A Dream of Reading”
Blog 3: Reflection on a poem of your choice, Blog 4: A Dream

Tuesday 2 - 13 / Wednesday 2 - 14

Draft workshop
Blog 5: British literature study guides, Blog 6: A Dream

Tuesday 2 - 20 / Wednesday 2 - 21 (Monday schedule)

No class
Blog 7: A Dream, Blog 8: A Dream

Tuesday 2 - 27 / Wednesday 2 - 28

Second workshop on reading and writing about poetry
Reading: Harvey Gross and Robert McDowell, “Prologue: The Moon through the Trees” and “Prosody as Rhythmic Cognition,” (from *Sound and Form in Modern Poetry*) & John Lennard, “Exams” (from *The Poetry Handbook*)
Blog 9: American literature study guides, Blog 10: Writing about Poetry

Wednesday 3 - 6 / Tuesday 3 - 7

Sample Honors Exam #1
Blog 11: A Dream, Blog 12: Reflection on sample exam #1

Tuesday 3 - 13 / Wednesday 3 - 14

Sample Honors Exam #2
Blog 13: A Dream, Blog 14: Reflection on sample exam #2

Tuesday 3 - 20 / Wednesday 3 – 21

Honors Exam preparation.
Blog 15: Reflection on Honors Exam, Blog 16: A Dream

Friday, 3 -23

Honors Exam, Klapper 103.

Wednesday 3 – 28

Tentative trip to MoMA for a film screening
Blog 17: A Dream, Blog 18: A Dream

Tuesday 4 – 3 / Wednesday 4 - 4

Spring Break

Tuesday 4 - 10 / Wednesday 4 - 11

First revisions for course web project due. In-class workshops on web project revisions.

Reading: To be determined

Blog 19: Reflection on web project, Blog 20: A Dream

Sunday, 4-15

Deadline for IASD essay contest

Tuesday 4 - 17 / Wednesday 4 - 18

Final revisions (including images and design) for course web project due; conference preparation

Blog 21: A Dream, Blog 22: A Dream

Tuesday 4 - 24 / Wednesday 4 - 25

Film screening: *Brazil*.

Blog 23: *Brazil* (and/or other dream films) Blog 24: A Dream

Tuesday 5 - 1 / Wednesday 5 - 2

Course web project goes live; conference preparation.

Blog 25: Reflection on course web project, Blog 26: A Dream

Tuesday 5 - 8 / Wednesday 5 - 9

Conference dress rehearsal

Blog 27: Reflection on upcoming conference, Blog 28: A Dream

Tuesday, 5 - 15

Conference dress rehearsal (location TBA)

Wednesday 5 - 16

The Conference (location TBA)

Blog 29: A Dream, Blog 30: Final Entry: The closing of the blogs