

ENGL 2240
British Literature after 1789
Dr. Adam Abraham
Spring 2021

ESSAY

First draft DUE: Monday 8 March – Monday 15 March

Final Draft DUE: Friday 19 March by 4:30 pm

Attach a file and email to asa0047@auburn.edu. In the subject line write “ESSAY”

To read is to reread. For the essay, each student will generate a close reading. Choose one poem that we read (Counter-Enlightenment or Victorians). DO NOT choose “The Tyger” (that was used for demonstration purposes). You are welcome to choose a poem that you annotated, but this is not obligatory.

Recall “How to Read a Poem.” Reread your selected poem out loud and note the rhyme scheme and meter. However, formal observations are not enough. In this essay, you should make an argument about what the poem is doing. Think about the following:

- Language. What is the word choice—ordinary or antiquated? Are there any repetitions? Similes or metaphors? How does the language impact the meaning?
- Form. How does the poem use rhyme and meter? Do rhymes and rhythm shape the meaning of the poem? What do you notice about line endings and stanza structure?
- Speaker. Who is the speaker? How would you characterize the voice of the poem? Is there irony? What is the relationship between the speaker and the audience?
- Main Idea. Does the poem resolve an issue? Is there closure?

Be sure to QUOTE from the poem a few times to provide evidence for your reading. If the poem is more than one page, include the page number after each quotation, in parentheses, thus: (267). Do not include a list of works cited. Do not conduct research.

An essay is a not a synopsis or a list of features. Organize your thoughts. Determine why the poem operates as it does. What is it doing? Make a claim.

REQUIREMENTS

- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.
In Microsoft Word, you should select “2.0.”
- Write in multiple paragraphs. Indent each new paragraph. Do no skip lines.
- Follow the conventions of edited American English. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*. There is no better book on the subject of English language usage.
- Meet with the instructor for a fifteen-minute conference on Zoom. A sign-in sheet is available (adamabraham.info). Email the first draft before your conference begins.
- Submit each draft as an attachment. Use Microsoft Word or pdf form.
- Approximate length = 1,000 words.

- The first page should be a TITLE PAGE. Create a title for your essay. The title page should be formatted in roughly the following fashion:

Title of Essay (NOTE: Mixed Case, not ALL CAPS)

Your Name

ENGL 2240

Date of Submission

Word Count: Number

- “Essay” or “Close Reading” is NOT a reasonable title. That is the assignment. Create a title that suggests what your essay is about.
- Each essay will get a score from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest).
- If you miss your conference, you will lose 5 points (e.g. a score of 8 gets reduced to 3).
- If you need to reschedule your conference for any reason, send an email before the conference begins.
- You may submit the FINAL DRAFT late if you send a request by email no later than one or two days BEFORE the deadline. See the syllabus for further details.