

Readings Presentation

engl 242 / sec. A / spring quarter 2008-09 / chang



Our class covers a broad survey of literatures of the fantastic, from Homer to Harry Potter. One of the best ways to explore and understand a text is through close reading. Another way to explore and understand a text, using what you have gained through reading, is through lively discussion and questioning both the text and your experience of it. Part of your overall class participation grade will be based on an **oral readings presentation**. You will be required to sign up for a readings oral presentation. For your presentation, you will read the texts assigned for a particular day, research a topic relevant to the texts, and get class discussion started for the day. You will be required to create a 1-page handout copied for the whole class. Topics (usually biographical, historical, or theoretical context) will be assigned to your group. Presentations are 5-8 minutes.

Presentation Outline

All presentations fall either on a Monday or a Wednesday. Presentations will be made by small groups of 2 or 3 students. Each group member must contribute to the overall research, handout, and presentation. Each group member must speak at least once during the presentation. The topics for your presentations will be assigned to you; however what you present and how you present the information is up to you.

If your group is assigned a biographic/bibliographic topic, then you are responsible for:

- 1) a brief biography of the author, noting any significant or relevant events, connections, and perspectives to the text at hand,
- 2) a brief contextualization of the text, outlining its significance, controversy, reception, or connection to other texts of the time.

If your group is assigned historical/theoretical topic, then you are responsible for:

- 1) a brief articulation of the history or theory at hand (e.g. US slavery and reconstruction, Freudian alienation, Modernism, race, gender, class) keeping the focus to points relevant to the text,
- 2) a brief analysis of how the topic connects to the text, how the topic helps us understand the text, or how the topic provides critical ways to analyze and challenge the text.

Once your presentation is done, each group member will assess their fellow presenters. Please send an email to me (changed@u.washington.edu) with the subject "Readings Presentation Evaluation" and a brief description of your group's process, division of work, each person's responsibilities, and anything else that comes to mind. Then rate each member with a score from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Grades will take into account overall group performance and individual performance as well as the quality of your handout. Your individual assessments and scores will be taken into account in your presentation grade.

Guidelines and Due Dates

- Format:** 5 to 8 minute oral presentation
general research on the text or topic is required
refer to specific passages and the texts for the week
1-page handout copied for the class including a bibliography of sources used
- Due:** on your sign-up date, at least once during the quarter
make sure to send your evaluation email
please post your handout and presentation information to the class blog