



Defining the Diva in Black Literature

FS 102, section W1

Required texts:

Hacker, Diane. *A Writer's Reference*

Morrison, Toni. *Sula*.

Shange, Ntozake. *Liliane: Resurrection of the Daughter*.

other readings available on Sakai

Dr. A. Lockridge~alockrid@allegheny.edu~Oddfellows Room 217~ M 1- 3pm, T/Th 1- 2:30pm, W 4:45- 5:45pm

Course Overview:

In this course we will attempt to define the Diva figure and assess its usefulness as a means to understand women in African-American literature. Building on Hazel Carby's assertions about Black womanhood and examining how different historical moments influenced Black women's writing, we examine the argument that a specific environment is responsible for the emergence of the Diva. Looking at Black women characters in text and film, we identify who these Divas are and what accounts for their making. This seminar develops written and oral communication skills, with an emphasis on persuasive communication in an academic context.

Course Policies:

1. Attendance Policy :

You are allowed two absences without question. For every subsequent absence, your final grade will be lowered by 3% points. Missing four or more classes will result in automatic failure.

2. Observation Lists :

You are expected to submit a list of ten meaningful observations about each reading/watching assignment to Sakai at 2pm on each day specified in the syllabus. Late lists will not be accepted and a grade of "F" and a score of zero will be recorded for the assignment. Missing too many of these assignments will adversely affect your final grade.

3. Drafts :

This is a writing intensive course and as a result drafts are a requirement. On the days that drafts are due and other days listed as Writing Workshop, you are required to bring in five blind drafts of your essay to class. (Please see weekly syllabus.) If you do not bring in a complete, typed and stapled draft, the final grade for your essay will be marked down a full letter grade. In addition, you will be marked absent for the day and asked to leave. Drafting is an important part of the writing process and will be treated as such. If you do not have the time to devote to this course, I suggest you register for one of the other 20 or so sections for FS 102.

4. Essays* :

There will be three essays in this course. Topics for essays will be provided up to one week before the due date. Please consult the weekly syllabus for due dates.

- All drafts are due in class at 3pm.
- All final essays are to be carefully typed, edited and submitted to Sakai by 2:30pm on due date.
- Essays will not be accepted via email.

*Because of the nature of this course, late essays will not be accepted.

5. *Class Participation* :

Class participation is a necessary component of any college course and is therefore **not** optional. Participating in class discussion allows you to engage the class and presents you with more opportunities for intellectual growth and learning. Refusal to fully participate in the class will be appropriately reflected in your grade.

6. *Honor Code* :

Plagiarism is another word for stealing. When you plagiarize you directly or indirectly use the ideas and/or language of another person or persons without acknowledgement and claim these words and ideas as your own. Not only is it a serious offense and grounds for academic expulsion, it is also against the law. You are plagiarizing if you do any or all of the following, though please keep in mind that these are not the only ways to plagiarize: 1) Use others' words directly without proper citation and quotations, 2) Use others' ideas and wording so closely (paraphrasing) that you are essentially quoting them without proper acknowledgement, 3) re-use assignments not written for this class and pretend that they are written for this class, 4) Borrow, buy, steal, download (you get the idea) others' essays, ideas, words, language, etc. and pass them off as your own. Please consult your Hacker handbook if you have questions about citation and documentation questions. Should I suspect any act of plagiarism, I will immediately report it to the Honor Committee and recommend that the student receive an F for the course.

7. *Final Grade** :

Your grade will be assessed based on the following coursework:

- ✓ Class Participation 15%
- ✓ Drafts 15%
- ✓ Essays # 1 15%
- ✓ Essays # 2 20%
- ✓ Essays # 3 20%
- ✓ Observation Lists 15%

*** All coursework must be submitted and submitted in order to complete this course successfully.**

Please Note: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning challenges that may impact your ability to successfully complete assigned course work, I would urge you to contact John Mangine, the Director of Student Support Services, in the Pelletier Library at 332-2898 or john.mangine@allegheny.edu. John Mangine and the staff at the Learning Commons will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability is kept strictly confidential.

Day-to-Day Schedule

Date		Title	Readings/ Viewings	Assignments
Thurs.	19 Jan	What's a Diva to you?		
Tues.	24 Jan	Class Cancelled		
Thurs.	26 Jan	Diva Theory	"Introduction, <i>Bulletproof Diva</i> (Sakai) & "The Diva Strikes Back" (Sakai)	Observation List
Tues.	31 Jan	Diva Theory	"Robo-Diva..." (Sakai) & Watch Rhiana's "Umbrella" Watch Beyonce's "Diva"	Observation List
Thurs.	2 Feb	<i>Dream Girls</i>	None	
Tues.	7 Feb			

Date		Title	Readings/ Viewings	Assignments	
Thurs.	9 Feb	<i>Mahogany</i>	None	Observation List- <i>Dream Girls</i>	
Tues.	14 Feb				
Thurs.	16 Feb	Developing a Thesis	From <i>Errors and Expectations</i> (Sakai)	Observation List- <i>Mahogany</i>	
Tues.	21 Feb	Writing Workshop	None	1 st Draft of Essay #1 due in class	
Thurs.	23 Feb	Writing Workshop	None	2 nd draft of Essay #1 due in class	
Tues.	28 Feb	Sula	<i>Sula</i> through “1919”	Observation List	
Thurs.	1 Mar	Sula	<i>Sula</i> , “1920” & “1923”	Observation List & Final draft of Essay #1 due to Sakai @ 2pm	
Tues.	6 Mar.	Sula	<i>Sula</i> , “1927”& “1937”	Observation List	
Thurs.	8 Mar	Sula	<i>Sula</i> , “1940” – to the end	Observation List	
Tues.	13 Mar	Sula	Essay on <i>Sula</i>	Observation List	
Thurs.	15 Mar	Writing Workshop	None	1 st draft of Essay #2 due in class	
Thurs.	20 Mar	Writing Workshop	None	2 nd draft of Essay #2 due in class	
<u>No Class – Spring Break- March 17^h - 24^h</u>					
Tues.	27 Mar	<i>Liliane</i>	<i>Liliane</i> pp 3- 60	Observation List	
Thurs.	29 Mar	<i>Liliane</i>	<i>Liliane</i> pp 63- 104	Observation List	
Tues.	3 Apr	<i>Liliane</i>	<i>Liliane</i> pp 107- 171	Observation List & Final draft of Essay #1 due to Sakai @ 2pm	
Thurs.	5 Apr	<i>Liliane</i>	<i>Liliane</i> pp 175- 219	Observation List	
Tues.	10 Apr	<i>Liliane</i>	<i>Liliane</i> pp 223- end	Observation List	
Thurs.	12 Apr	Re-considering your subject	http://writingcenter.unc.edu/resources/handouts-demos/writing-the-paper/revising-drafts	Observation List	
Tues.	17 Apr	Writing Workshop	None	1 st draft of Essay #3 due in class	
Thurs.	19 Apr	Writing Workshop	None	2 nd draft of Essay #3 due in class	
Tues.	24 Apr	Student Presentations			
Thurs.	26 Apr	Student Presentations			
Wed.	5 May	Final Essay Due to Sakai @ 9am			