

Research Proposal (25%)

Unlike the previous writing assignments which focus on developing a claim through slow, careful, and precise reading of literary texts, this assignment asks you to incorporate research into your interpretations of literature. In this way, the final paper offers you the opportunity to combine close reading skills with their research skills in order to produce creative and persuasive interpretations of literary texts.

Rather than writing a formal literary analysis research paper, however, you will work through different aspects of a research paper and, ultimately, produce a robust research proposal that includes annotations, a bibliography, a close reading, and a literature review. You will research an aspect of history, sociology, economics, or political theory in order to better understand how a literary text is historically and culturally situated. So, too, will you research how other folks are interpreting and thinking about the literature you are discussing (or the author more generally).

****Final Proposal Due on May 19th by 11:59pm est***

To Submit and Assessment:

(40%) Process Elements (all P/F based on completion):

(10%) In-Process Elements/Draft for Workshop

(10%) Workshop Participation and Letter

(10%) Revision Reflection (approx. 300-500 words) that addresses the following:

- (a) What was your creative and writing process for this project?
- (b) Did you engage with feedback from your peers or instructor? If no, explain why. If yes, please cite specific examples of feedback and explain your choice to listen/not to what was shared.
- (c) Explain the decisions you made as you (re)drafted this project.

(10%) Self Assessment (approx. 300-500 words) that addresses the following:

- (a) What skills (creative, writerly, thinking or feeling) did you work on when completing this project? What were your goals for this project?
- (b) How did you approach this goal? Did you achieve it? Why/not?
- (c) What did you learn in producing this project that you want to bring into the future?

(60%) Polished Formal Research Proposal that includes:

- (1) a **contextualized close reading** that provides description of the story as a whole while also illustrating *why* the research needs to be done through a close reading of a specific element of the text
- (2) **clear explication of your research question** and its importance to understanding the meaning of the literary text
- (3) a **review of the research** (literature review) that summarizes the different approaches

to your topic and how they relate to each other and help address your research question and the text's meaning

- (4) a detailed description of what the **next steps** would be if you were to transform this research proposal into a formal literary analysis essay
- (5) accurately formatted **works referenced and cited page**

Assessed based on the following rubric:

Instructor Assessment Rubric

Quality	Needs Attention Check Minus (75)	Good Check (85)	Excellent Check Plus (95)
<p>Research Question and Close Reading: Proposal has a clear and specific research question that emerges from a specific and analytically rich close reading of a primary literary text.</p>			
<p>Literature Review: Proposal provides an in-depth and succinct review of research undertaken. It is clear how the different sources relate to each other and the larger research question of the proposal.</p> <p>The research has been contextualized effectively, carefully explained, analyzed, and evaluated, and correctly documented.</p>			
<p>Proposal exhibits a Sense of Authorial Voice and Originality. The proposal makes the reader rethink the way they've read the literary text.</p>			
<p>Structure: Proposal has a transparent structure and exhibits clear expression from beginning to end on both the sentence and paragraph level; purpose is woven into the essay.</p>			
<p>Style and cleanliness: Proposal uses effective diction and prose style; sentences are clear and do not impede meaning; correct formatting and citations.</p>			