

International College of Manitoba

English 1400: Thematic Approaches to Literature

Due: March 21 & 24 at the beginning of class stapled in your folder portfolio accompanied by in-class projects 2018

Final Synthesis Assignment: Final Synthesis paper 1250-1700 words is worth (25%).

Length/Format: Six (6) paragraphs; one (1) introductory paragraph, four (4) body paragraphs and one (1) paragraph for your conclusion. Your final synthesis paper must be (7-9pages) pages, typed (double-spaced, 12 pt. Font, one-sided, pages numbered). Use MLA citation and format. Please include an informative title. The purpose of this assignment is to compare and contrast using *synthesis*. You are writing a synthesis paper, which involves comparing and contrasting a minimum of two (2) sources.

Thesis Statement: You must write an **introductory paragraph**. Remember to consider the context from which you are approaching the problem. Formulate, draft and revise a thesis statement based on the question below. You can ask a question (inductive) and set out to answer the question or you can make a statement (deductive) and support the statement with textual evidence. Write the introduction and contextualize all of your sources. You must convey your own purpose or thesis statement in one or two sentences. Communicate to the reader your main comparisons and contrasts that you intend to take up in the body of your paper and remember to contextualize the work first.

Questions:

1. Focus your attention on any film or books that that we watched or read this term. Research some of the critical reviews and commentaries from scholarly sources. Compare or contrast the main points of critical comment raised and compose a synthesis paper based on the critical reception of this film or book. What are the arguments and criticisms against the film or book for example? Do you agree or disagree with them? Use a minimum of one (1) critic, and identify a minimum of four (4) points that are raised by the critic about the film or text in the body section of your paper. Link your responses back to the main themes of the course and provide textual evidence.
2. Compare and contrast any two (2) works that we studied this term and discuss the literature of place and haunted spaces through an analysis of settings, haunted spaces, landscapes, and atmosphere. How do the storyteller's use of landscape, place and setting for example work to create suspense in their stories. Provide textual evidence.
3. Compare or contrast the representation of any two (2) ghosts that we studied this term. How are their characterizations similar or different? Discuss (4) four strategies or devices that the storyteller uses and analyze the development of the ghost figures' characterizations. How they are haunted or haunting figures? Why do they come back to

haunt? What are they in search of? Look closely at the problem of ghosts co-existing with the living and link your observations to the larger significance or overall dramatic structure of the works and your own understanding of the importance of ghosts to the storyteller, haunted spaces and the literature of place.

4. Define all three (3) critical reader response theories that we discussed in class but choose to concentrate on only one (1) of the three (3) theories in your paper to discuss the role and importance of the storyteller in *The Turn of the Screw*. Make sure to link the theory back to the problem of narrative reliability. Are the ghosts real? Is the narrator reliable? You can choose an alternate story to discuss these critical responses if you want. Always provide textual analysis in your syntheses.

5. Discuss symbols, personification, the presence of objects made malevolent through the device of simile and metaphors from any two (2) ghost stories that we studied this term and discuss how they *work to* mirror the characters' inner struggles or torments, more specifically their repressed guilt or the secrets that they hide from the past. Compare or contrast the use of any of these devices but provide textual evidence. Link your discussion back to the overall theme of haunted spaces and the storyteller.

6. Compare and/or contrast the genres (gothic romance, memoir, cine-poem, short story, film), and/or narrative strategies, (frame-within a frame, flashback, voice-over, first-person point-of-view, or omniscient narration) in order to discuss the significance of narrative reliability in the stories that contain ghosts or haunted spaces within specific geographies. How do these authorial places or choices and strategies create a "proper" ghost story that haunts us reader. Provide textual evidence.

Body: Use topic sentences and follow an outline. **In a comparison paper you need to make a list of *similarities and differences in terms of the different approaches to your chosen inquiry*.** You can use your list to create different topic sentences and paragraphs for the body of your paper. Make sure that all your paragraphs refer back to a topic sentence or significant statement on that theme or central idea. You need four (4) body paragraphs and an introduction and conclusion making six (6) paragraphs in total.

Conclusion: Remember to account for your research problem and thesis statement to demonstrate whether or not you proved with substantive evidence the original claims that you set out to make. If you did not demonstrate what you set out to prove then explain the significance of what you did discover. Also you must offer the reader "food for thought" apart from the closing observations that you have already made.

Works Cited: Final page that details all of your bibliographic sources.

