

Bibliographic Research Assignment
English 3334E Sect. 001
Due Date: 17 March

This assignment accounts for 10 percent of your 2nd term essay mark (not 10 percent of your final mark -- in practice, it therefore accounts for 2.5% of your final mark), and is therefore marked out of "10." The assignment is due two weeks before the essay, and is subject to the following lateness penalty: one mark (not percent) out of 10 possible per business day late. Assignments must be given to me directly, or handed in to be date-stamped in one of the two English Essay boxes outside of the main Department office.

This assignment includes the following components:

- 1) A draft of your "thesis statement"; this should be between 40 and 100 words in length.
- 2) A complete bibliographical reference (in MLA style) to the "best" edition of the work you are planning to write on. Provide a one or two sentence explanation of why you think this is the best edition to use. Please note that it is not sufficient to justify your use of an edition merely because it is on the syllabus of this course.
- 3) Secondary sources – locate and give full bibliographical references (in MLA style) for:
 - a) One book relevant to your subject which is not specifically on the subject of the author(s) you are writing about.
 - b) Two articles relevant to your subject, one of which must be from a periodical or journal (i.e., not from a bound collection of essays; this may be an online journal).
 - c) One online article or source which has not been published in a conventional periodical or journal: You should include one or two sentences describing why you are confident that this is a trustworthy resource.
- 4) Stapled as an attachment to your assignment, a photocopy or printout of one page from a *searchable* electronic text of a work upon which you are writing (most likely from the *LION* database) which includes at least one occurrence of a term, word, or phrase relevant to your subject matter or thesis.

Please note: this should be a printout of an electronic copy of the text you are writing about, not a copy or photocopy of an electronic article or book. You are searching *Sentimental Journey* (for example) for a useful or pertinent term, *not* a secondary source on this book.

Essay Topics
English 3334E Sect. 001

Due Date: 31 March

Length: About 2000-2500 words.

Please remember that the penalty for lateness is 1% *per business day*. All papers not handed in during class should be left in one of the essay drop-off boxes in front of the main English office, University College. For essay format, consult "Guidelines for Essays," at the Eng 3334E Web Site, <http://instruct.uwo.ca/english/234e/index.html> or "MLA Tips" on the Dept. of English Web Site, <http://www.uwo.ca/english/site/undrgrd/mlatips/index.html>.

Examine the relationship between instruction and sublimity, with particular reference to the emotion(s) of "fear" or "terror," in one of our texts.

Is sentimentality gendered in the novels, plays, or poems of the eighteenth-century? Consider the evidence for this, and the implications of your conclusion.

Explore the attractions of melancholy and/or gloom in one or more of the texts we are studying.

Examine depictions of, and attitudes towards the irrational in one of our texts.

Consider the ways in which a text explores the power and/or dangers of the human imagination.

Explore attitudes towards "empire" and imperialism in one or more of Pope's poems.

Discuss the use of the visual imagery (with, perhaps, special reference to the idea of the "picturesque") in one of the novels we are studying.

Examine depictions of, and attitudes towards the human body in one or more of the texts we are discussing.

Explore the depictions of disadvantaged social classes in one of our works.

Discuss the relationship between satire and sentiment in Sterne's *A Sentimental Journey* or Sheridan's *The School for Scandal*.

Examine the employment of the "fragment" in one of the works we are reading.

Explore the position of the poet within society, as it is implied or discussed in Pope or Swift.

What does the idea of "foreign" signify in one or more of the texts we are studying? What is the function of depictions of "elsewhere," and what are the implications of this function?

Write a short (3,000 word) gothic prose vignette in the manner of Horace Walpole recounting an event in residence or where you live (but do not use the first person in your narrative). The story should reflect the characteristic literary style, narrative approach, and thematic concerns favoured by Walpole. Include a 3 page "scholarly" discussion of how the vignette reflects the distinct style of Walpolean gothicism that makes reference to at least two relevant academic works on the eighteenth-century gothic.