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Homestead Campus

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Study Guide  
For  
Independent Study**

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LIT-2480

Issues in Literature and Society

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Professor Jerry Blanton

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Welcome to independent studies!

Please read this syllabus in its entirety and sign the course contract at the end of this package.

Since your professor does not provide regularly scheduled lectures, you the student must be responsible for your own study and testing schedule in order to meet the deadlines.

**Miami Dade College  
Gordon Rule Writing Rubric  
Spring 2007**

	<b>Demonstrates Emerging College-Level Writing 1</b>	<b>Demonstrates Satisfactory College-Level Writing 2</b>	<b>Demonstrates Proficient College-Level Writing 3</b>	<b>Demonstrates Exemplary College-Level Writing 4</b>
Addresses Purpose and Audience	Wavers in purpose.  Incompletely addresses assigned topic or directions.  Shows need for more study of issues.  Style uneven.	Adheres to purpose, fulfills assignment.  Shows adequate understanding of key issues.  Style generally appropriate to intended audience.	Communicates purpose clearly.  Shows full understanding of issues.  Style consistently effective for intended audience.	Communicates purpose with sophistication.  Beyond understanding of issues, shows insight.  Style engages audience, establishes writer's credibility.

	<b>Demonstrates Emerging College-Level Writing 1</b>	<b>Demonstrates Satisfactory College-Level Writing 2</b>	<b>Demonstrates Proficient College-Level Writing 3</b>	<b>Demonstrates Exemplary College-Level Writing 4</b>
Demonstrates Effective Organization of Content	Loose focus on central idea.  Contains some repetition and digression.  Paragraph structure weak.	Central idea evident.  Paragraph structure sometimes supports content.  Consistency, logic and transitions show some weaknesses.	Central idea clear.  Paragraph structure uniformly supports content.  Consistency, logic and transitions well managed.	Central idea clear.  Paragraph structure consistently and effectively supports content.  Clear logic and effective transitions.

	<b>Demonstrates Emerging College-Level Writing 1</b>	<b>Demonstrates Satisfactory College-Level Writing 2</b>	<b>Demonstrates Proficient College-Level Writing 3</b>	<b>Demonstrates Exemplary College-Level Writing 4</b>
<b>Employs Effective Language</b>	Frequent errors in word choice.  Sentence structure and mechanics seriously affect clarity.	Word choice correct but simple / without variety.  Errors in mechanics and / or usage do not obscure content of assignment.	Word choice accurate, varied.  Occasional errors in sentence structure.  Usage and mechanics do not hinder writer's ability to communicate purpose.	Choice of language consistently precise, purposeful.  Nearly flawless sentence structure.  Usage, mechanics contribute to writer's ability to communicate purpose.

The following descriptors will be used effective Spring 2007 as the MDC criteria for “college-level writing.”

The writing will:

- a. have a clearly defined central idea or thesis;
- b. provide adequate support for that idea;
- c. be organized clearly and logically;
- d. utilize the conventions of standard edited American English;
- e. be presented in a format appropriate to the assignment.

LIT2480 fulfills the oral communication requirement in General Education for the A.A. degree or the humanities requirement in Group B for the A.A. degree.

LIT2480 – Issues in Literature and Culture

Text: Anna, P. and Rosen, R. (2007) *Literature and Society*, 4. New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc.

**Week 1:** Introduction. Read “How fiction works,” pp. 1467-1482. “Growing Up/ Growing Older,” pp. 47-150. Read especially “Girl,” “The Family of Little Feet,” “Sonny’s Blues,” “Young Goodman Brown.”

**PowerPoint:** *Elements of a Story*

**Week 2:** Present an oral critical analysis to the professor based on one of the short stories above. Read “How Poetry Works,” pp.1483-1512. “Growing Up/ Growing Older,” pp. 151-206.

**PowerPoint:** *Elements of Poetry: (1) form (2) tone (3) imagery (4) music (5) meaning*  
evaluation (1)

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**Week 3:** Write a critical analysis of one or more poems. Read “How Drama Works,” pp.1513-1526. “Growing Up/ Growing Older,” pp. 207-264.

**PowerPoint:** *Elements of theater: (1) Ancient and Classical (2)Medieval and Renaissance (3) Realistic (4) Modern*  
evaluation (2)

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**Week 4:** Read “Women and Men,” pp. 303-379, especially “The Yellow Wallpaper,” “Hills Like White Elephants,” “A & P,” and “The Story of an Hour.” Take a quiz. Oral discussion of the plays in “Growing up/Growing older.”  
evaluation (3)

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**Week 5:** Read “Women and Men,” pp. 380-435. Write a précis of one of the stories in “Women and Men.”  
evaluation (4)

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**Week 6:** Read “Women and Men,” pp. 436-564. Oral critique of the plays in “Women and Men.”  
evaluation (5)

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**Week 7:** Read “Money and Work,” pp. 579-666, especially “I Stand Here Ironing,” “Spotted Horses,” “The Lesson,” and “Everyday Use.”

**Discuss term paper concept with professor: topic, working thesis, outline.**

**Week 8:** Mid-term Examination: Covers the material in weeks 1-6.  
Mid-term Examination evaluation (6)

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**Week 9:** Read “Money and Work,” pp. 667-729. Write a critique of one or more of the poems from this unit.

**Week 10:** Read “Money and Work,” pp. 730-879.

**Discuss term paper with professor: show working thesis and outline.**

**Week 11:** Oral discussion of drama from “Money and Work.” Read “Peace and War,” pp.937-988, especially “August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains,” “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge,” “The Red Convertible,” “The Man I Killed.”  
evaluation (7)

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**Week 12:** Read “Peace and War,” pp. 989-1049. Write a précis of one of the stories from “Money and Work.”

**Discuss term paper with professor: show references and abstract**  
evaluation (8)

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**Week 13:** Read “Varieties of Protest,” pp. 1124-1232, especially “Bartleby the Scrivener,” “A Loaf of Bread,” and “The Loneliness of the Long-distance Runner.”

**Week 14:** Read “Varieties of Protest,” pp.1233-1301.

Oral discussion of the short stories in “Varieties of Protest.”  
Evaluation (9)

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**Week 15:** Read “Varieties of Protest,” pp. 1302-1422.

**Submit term paper.**

Term paper evaluation (10)

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**Week 16:**

Final examination evaluation (7)

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**Final Grade**

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Miami Dade College  
Directed Independent Study Course  
Homestead Campus

**CONTRACT**

I have received and so acknowledge my understanding of all requirements, deadlines, policies, etc., stated in this term's Independent Study *Study Guide* for the course in which I am enrolled

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME CLEARLY: \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE ABBREVIATION AND REFERENCE  
NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

TERM: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

This student has indicated to me that the course policies, procedures, and requirements are understood.

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