

Alternative Paper Assignment

Assignment. You will have the option in this class to write one long paper (the alternative paper assignment) in lieu of two separate shorter papers. The longer paper will need to combine work of paper 1 and paper 2, but it will be slightly longer than 1 and 2 combined.

Paper 2 (full assignment sheet to follow later in the semester) will ask you to write an 8-12 page paper that makes a contribution to the discussion of emotion and literary or cultural texts. The paper should present an argument about some specific, well-defined issue or problem that links emotion and literature. The specific topic for this paper is yours to determine. When setting up or framing your argument for paper 2, you will need to explain how your ideas and analysis relate to other, similar examinations. These examinations—which will constitute the conversation that you're joining—could be any of the following, for example: literary criticism on the text you're analyzing, biographical information about the author, psychological or philosophical examinations of a particular emotion, theories of emotion, or theories of literature and/or art that discuss emotion. You'll want to present your own ideas as a contribution to an ongoing but developing conversation. How do your ideas relate to what has already been said? Where do you differ in your view from other, previous views? Where do you agree with and build upon ideas, concepts, or views that have already been presented? What is new, different, or special about your own contribution? How would you explain why your own view matters? Why is it important, helpful, or significant?

Paper 2 requires research, outside sources, the summarization of other views, and responses to them. You will need to include a works cited page and carefully document your sources according to an accepted style sheet (such as MLA style). The main part of the paper, however, will be your own argument about some very specific aspect of emotion and literature. You are welcome to explore topics in emotion and literature that extend beyond our syllabus. But please make use of what we're studying—the theories examined, the literary texts read, or the issues brought up.

Proposals. If you want to try the alternative paper assignment, you must meet with me for a paper/brainstorming conference on or before Monday, September 19. On Wednesday, September 28th, you will hand in a written, one-page paper proposal. The proposal should be clear and specific, though I expect that some papers will change their approach or focus between the time of the proposal and the day the final paper is due

Due Date. Monday, November 21st

Length. 20 typed, double-spaced pages