PURPOSE: English 30 is an Honors rhetoric and composition course that introduces the students to various modes of written discourse while emphasizing the rhetorical constraints of audience and purpose. To provide us with a sense of continuity and coherence, this course emphasizes a specific theme linking seemingly diverse texts. Through analysis and interpretation, we aim to consider the theme of self-definition and to explore the social, political, moral and personal influences that both cloud and determine our awareness of the self. Since the questions of who we are and where we are going are perennial and open-ended, our aim is to see how the questions are framed in each of the texts; how the answers are influenced by the specifics of each situation; and how, by suspending our disbelief, we can recognize ourselves and our own lives in the world of each text.

POLICIES: You are required to keep up with the reading, participate in class discussions, offer constructive responses to the texts and provide thoughtful critiques of student drafts and presentations. I'll be attentive to your comments in class and will review your rough draft critiques for each paper; as evident, intelligent involvement in class discussions and thoughtful feedback on drafts are essential components of this course. In short, your complete participation in class is required. A percentage of your grade is set aside for this purpose.

ATTENDANCE is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences. Your grade will be lowered one full letter after the third absence. Late arrivals to class and tardiness in handing in assignments will also lower your grade. Too many missed classes will result in failure in the course.

PAPERS: Final papers and rough drafts must be typed (proposals may be handwritten), double-spaced with one inch margins and your name, my name, the course number and date included on the top right hand corner of the page. Staple or clip all your pages together. Always keep with you an additional copy of the final draft. Papers must be handed in on the dates they are due.

You are required to write five papers, each 4-6 pages in length. Papers will include a proposal and rough draft due on specific dates (see Syllabus). These are: Definition, Rhetorical Analysis, Personal Narrative, Evaluation and Literary Analysis/Refutation.
Papers 1 to 4 are worth 15% each; Paper 5, covering two or more texts and requiring library work, is worth 25%. You have two additional responsibilities in this course.

1) You are required to make a 10 minute oral presentation of one of your papers to the class (you need to sign up early in the semester for a specific presentation date—see Syllabus). Your presentation must include a one-page synopsis handout for each student as well as a discussion of your ideas and an evaluation of how the theme of self definition is revealed. Do not merely read out your papers; your role is to offer your perspectives and insights into the text and to guide the class in discussion and analysis.

2) As a member of a small (3 students) group response team in November and early December, you will present a group analysis of some aspect of a selected text. This is a creative rhetorical project where you are free to choose the audience, forum, tone and exigence (More on this in November). The presentation must be between 10 to 15 minutes.

Your individual and group presentations, additional classwork and your attendance and participation in discussions constitute the other 15% of your grade. (Note: Paper 2, the Rhetorical Analysis, is not included as an option for individual or group presentations; instead, I'll schedule brief conferences with you to discuss your drafts).

For each of the five final papers to be considered complete, you must include your proposal, rough draft and peer critiques; incomplete papers will result in a lower grade. Rough drafts must be brought to class on the required dates. Missing a rough draft session will lower your grade on the paper. Also please remember that poorly prepared rough drafts—those that are sketchy and unfocused—put fellow students who come to class prepared to critique your work at a disadvantage. A shoddy rough draft may result in a lower grade, so please be responsible for bringing a thought-out and developed paper to class for peer-review.

If required, I may give you brief unannounced quizzes to ensure that your reading is up to date. These quizzes will be graded as classwork.

Papers will be graded on depth and clarity of thought, organization of subject matter, verbal facility and clarity and the overall recognition of the rhetorical situation (audience, purpose, intention). In addition, I will give you a Department handout detailing additional grading standards.

ALL PAPERS (including drafts, etc) MUST BE KEPT IN A PORTFOLIO to be handed in to me during the last week of the semester. To pass the course, you must complete all the requirements.

Office Hours are as earlier indicated. Feel free to stop by to discuss your work and the texts under review.

Keep in mind that plagiarism is a serious offense leading to severe academic consequences, including expulsion from the University.

**Syllabus**

August 25 Introduction to course and review of syllabus. In class writing.

27 30 What is Rhetoric? Rhetorical situation; audience, purpose. Intro, Definition. “Letters to Susan” AI.

September 30 3 Intro to Spark. Jean Brodie, (pp to be announced). Sign-up sheet for individual presentations.
Jean Brodie cont. (pp. tba). The rhetoric of self deception. Image as identity. "We are what we seem."

Jean Brodie, pp. (pp. tba). Definition Assignment.


Presentations.

Rough drafts.


Martin Luther King "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in AI.

King (continued). Student review of King. Proposals for paper 2 due.

Rough Draft Session. A copy of your draft must be handed in to me at the end of class. Sign up for conferences.

Individual conferences in 13 Sparks Building.

Individual conferences continued.

Paper 2 due. Personal Narrative, introduction. The notion of Voice. AI, Kingston, "No Name Woman". White "Once More to the Lake" p. 172.

October

Jasmine pp. 1-50. The different kinds of authorial narrative voices. The many voices that constitute the self.

Jasmine pp. 51-108.


Holiday

Rough Drafts and individual presentations.

Rough Drafts and individual presentations.

Paper 3 due. Introduction to Conrad. The "essential" evil within; identity inherent or influenced by external factors?

Heart of Darkness pp. 9-55.


Rough Drafts and individual presentations.

Rough Drafts and individual presentations.

November

Paper 4 due. Introduction to Waugh. Additional readings.

Handful of Dust pp. 3-84. The self as cipher; image is everything. Straw men and Wastelands.


Handful of Dust pp. 211-283.

Handful of Dust pp. 284-308. Discussion of Response papers.

Response papers (in groups of 3).

Introduction to Greene. Literary Analysis/Refutation. The "religious" self and Wasteland morality.

Quiet American pp. 11-68.

Quiet American pp. 68-133

Quiet American 137-189. Assignment discussed

Optional individual discussions, paper 5.

December


Response papers cont.

Response papers cont.

Rough Drafts.

Paper 5 due. Portfolios due.