

## Literary Research Paper

As noted in your syllabus, this course centers on one major project, a **documented research paper on a literary topic**, and on the writing and speaking processes that precede and follow the paper itself. Your grades in the course will be weighted as follows:

- **Participation** in the Research Process (see objectives A, B, and C under “Scope” on syllabus) will determine **30%** of your grade in the course.
- The **research paper** itself will determine **40%** of your grade in the course.
- The **oral presentation** of your work will determine **10%** of your grade in the course.
- The **final examination**, an essay assessing your entire research process and the oral presentations of three peers, will determine **20%** of your grade in the course.

### Topics

Please choose **one** of the following topics for your research project:

1. If you are taking my course in Twentieth-Century American literature, you can write on **Arthur Miller’s play *Death of a Salesman***. You may write on the same topic that you wrote on for that class, but your new paper must show **significant revision and expansion**; it must also incorporate the views of **at least three secondary sources**, which usually take the form of an article from a scholarly journal or a chapter from a scholarly book that relates to your topic. Alternatively, you may write on a different topic on *Death of a Salesman*. In other words, you may have written your paper for the American Literature course on Willy as a tragic character; your new paper may focus instead on Linda or on one of the other topics. Whatever your topic on *Salesman*, you may use three of the sources (articles) that I will make available to you, or you may find alternative sources on your own; you may also use a combination of my sources and sources you find independently.
2. If you are taking my Twentieth-Century American literature course, you may also write on **Ernest Gaines’ novel *A Lesson before Dying***. Again, you may revise and expand your paper for Twentieth-Century American Literature, or you may write on a topic you did not take up before. I will provide you three articles on Gaines’ novel; you may use them as your three secondary sources, you may find your own sources, or you may combine my sources with some of your own. In any case, **you must blend the views of three scholars with your own analysis**.
3. If you do not want to do research on *Death of a Salesman* or on *A Lesson before Dying*, you may explore instead the **Balkans conflict as portrayed in history and fiction**. Your work will focus on **one** of the books from **each** of the lists that follow:

### Literature

Ivo Andric, *The Bridge on the Drina*

Slavenka Drakulic, *S: A Novel about the Balkans*

Ismail Kadare, *The Three-Arched Bridge*

Ismail Kadare, *Elegy for Kosovo*

David Roberts, *Kosovo War Poetry*

Susan Southworth, *The Last Kosovo Serb Won't Leave*

Mustafa Tukaj, *Faith and Fairies*

### Nonfiction

Edith Durham, *High Albania: A Victorian Traveller's  
Balkan Odyssey*

Paula Huntley, *The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo*

Philip Kearney, *Under the Blue Flag: My Mission in  
Kosovo*

I own all of these books; you may borrow your two volumes from me if you cannot find your own. Your paper **must also include the views of three scholars** whose work you found in articles or book chapters.

4. **Devise your own topic.** You may do your research paper on **any work of literature** which you have read on your own or have studied in some other class, or **on a linguistics topic, such as ways to facilitate second-language acquisition.** However, **I expect original work:** You may not submit to me a paper you have already written for another class. Again, your paper must include the views of at least three scholars whose work you found in articles or books.

### Specifications and Procedures

- Your research paper should reach approximately **10 pages**, double-spaced, 12-point type (2,500 words). Additionally, your research paper should include a **Works Cited page(s)**, listing alphabetically your primary source(s) and your three secondary sources in the format prescribed by the Modern Language Association. See model distributed in class.
- You will prepare a **research proposal** and **two preliminary drafts** of the paper. Only the final (third) draft will receive a grade, but you will fail the course if you do not submit the rough draft and the first revision.
- You must attend **three conferences** with me to talk about your progress on the project. See syllabus.
- You will **submit your final draft at the end of the eleventh week** of class.
- The next three weeks will be devoted to **10-15 minute oral presentations** of your research, stressing your conclusions and your key evidence. All students must attend every presentation.
- The **final examination** will give you a chance to reflect on the entire research process and to assess the oral presentations of three of your fellow students.
- Any type of **academic dishonesty**—submitting a paper written for another course, failing to quote secondary sources, submitting someone else's paper—will yield a failing grade in the course.