

APE Lit (Davis) Independent Study Project: Fall 2011

1. This assignment is NOT optional; it will be worth 100 points. The complete project is due at the start of your class on November 28, 2011. If you are absent, you should e-mail the address of your project to me before the time your class starts on November 28, 2011.
2. First, you are to select a novel from the list that was posted on the class website. Your title is due October 28, 2011.
3. After selecting a novel, procure a copy (recommended action: checking out a copy from a library) and READ IT. Read ALL of it.
4. Create the following pages on your class website (you may use Edublogs, WikiSpaces, or PBWorks—for any other website platform, please seek approval from me before proceeding):

TO GET STARTED, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU COMPOSE YOUR DRAFTS OF THESE PAGES IN PENZU OR GOOGLE DOCS. THEN WHEN IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO CONSTRUCT YOUR BLOG, ALL YOU WILL HAVE TO DO IS COPY AND PASTE EXISTING WORK. THAT WAY YOU DO NOT RISK LOSING WORK THAT YOU TYPE DIRECTLY INTO A BLOG/WEBSITE, ON THE ODD CHANCE THAT THERE IS A TECHNOLOGICAL SNAFU.

REQUIRED BLOG PAGES:

1. A character introduction page. Include a wordle image for the character (use words/phrases that describe your selected, central character from the novel). Also include a photo of your character (NO celebrities!), and a brief description of him/her (role in life, relationships, family, goals, interests, location, etc.). Be creative! You could set up this page like a facebook profile page, or any other number of formats.
2. Character Diary--all five entries are to appear on the same page--you will choose if you want them to go in chronological ascending or descending order. You are to write a minimum of FIVE diary entries in the voice and from the point of view of your selected main character. Each entry must be 250-350 words, and each entry must have at least one related graphic or image in it. If you want these to be like the character's blog, you need to construct your page(s) so that the most recent entry (the last one) appears first. If you want to present your entries as the character's diary, then they can be presented in true chronological order. The entries should include the character's thoughts, feelings, reactions, plans to act, and opinions about the action of the novel at various points in the reading. At no time does the character need to tell the story. ALSO, you need to compose a comment on each of the entries (in your actual voice and from your point of view). The entry's comment should offer a brief analysis of a literary element (your choice--characterization, setting, point of view, theme, diction, details, language, syntax, or tone) and how the author uses that element in the portion of the novel that the character entry is about. Each comment should be 25-50 words.

3. A page that includes three or more links grouped around a theme/topic of interest to your character. You must include a minimum of ONE of the following on this page as well:
 - *A link to a video/or an embedded video;
 - *A survey for viewers of your blog;
 - *An additional set of links grouped around a second theme/topic of interest to your character;
 - *A photo slideshow;
4. A page that consists of an interview script between you and your character. You must ask and compose your character's answers to a minimum of 10 questions. At least 7 of the 10 questions must be open-ended enough to require the character to offer more than a single-word or brief phrase as his/her answer. Be creative here! Some fun questions might be something like: give me a 15-song playlist from your iPod that includes your favorite tunes.
5. A final page where you write as a reviewer of the book. Your critique should follow the format and style of a standard book review--mention the setting, main characters, point of view, and some of the early plot and conflict details without telling the entire story. Then offer your comments and evaluation of the story as a whole, as well as discussing some of the characteristics of the author's style--perhaps you could discuss the way the author uses language (diction, details, language), and forms sentences (syntax) to reveal the plot, tone, and themes. For examples of this kind of writing, look at the *New York Times Book Review*, or reviews published at the Amazon or Barnes and Noble online stores.

IF YOU USE OUTSIDE SOURCES OF ANY KIND, YOU MUST USE MLA (MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION) GUIDELINES AND STYLE FOR CITING THE SOURCE(S) SOMEWHERE ON YOUR BLOG--THE EASIEST WAY IS TO INCLUDE CITATIONS AT THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE).