

# English 680

---

Tim Sweet, ENGL 680, Spring 2006, Introduction to Literary Research

**ENGL 680: Introduction to Literary Research**

Spring 2006

W 4:00-6:50

46C Stansbury

Tim Sweet

.222 Stansbury

Office Hours W 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

293-3107 x33417

[tsweet@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:tsweet@mail.wvu.edu)

## Overview

---

English 680, Introduction to Literary Research, is designed to introduce first-year Master's degree students to the research and writing skills necessary for advanced study in English. While research and writing skills will continue to be developed in other courses, this course provides an explicit foundation for understanding the expectations for and forms of research. The Graduate Program Committee has specified that ENGL 680 cover three areas:

**Research methods:** locating, evaluating, and incorporating information from a variety of primary and secondary sources

**Genres of academic writing:** understanding the expectations conventions of academic genres

**Textual studies:** understanding the technologies of the transmission of texts

This term, we will use Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* and a related work of scholarship as common texts from which to work on these areas. You will also work on an independent project culminating in a conference-length paper on a topic of your choice in Jefferson studies or a related research context.

## Required texts

Thomas Hallock. *From the Fallen Tree: Frontier Narratives, Environmental Politics, and the Roots of a National Pastoral, 1749-1826*. U of North Carolina P, 2003. 0807854913

James L. Harner. *Literary Research Guide: An Annotated Listing of Reference Sources in English Literary Studies*. 4th edition. MLA, 2002. 0873529839

Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Ed. William Peden. 1955. U of North Carolina P, 1996. 0807845884

Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Ed. Frank Shuffelton. Penguin, 1999. 0140436677

William Proctor Williams and Craig S. Abbott. *An Introduction to Bibliographical and Textual Studies*. 3rd edition. MLA, 1999. 0873522680

## Assignments and grading

---

**Note:** all work must be documented using MLA style. Further specifications for each assignment will be given separately.

Quiz on Williams and Abbott. 5 points

Seven research assignments, as follows:

1. Report on WVU library holdings from sub-section of Harner. 5 points
2. Comparison between Peden and Shuffelton editions of Jefferson's Notes, focusing on one significant variant. 10 points
3. Enumerative bibliography of all editions of Notes, with commentary. 5 points
4. Case study of transmission of a text, plus handouts for presentation. 10 points
5. Report on recent major directions in Jefferson studies. 15 points
6. "Meta-review" of Hallock, *From the Fallen Tree*, including annotated bibliography of all extant reviews. 10 points
7. Report on web presence of Jefferson's Notes. 5 points

Final project, consisting of the following:

- Abstract and annotated bibliography for final paper. 10 points
- Presentation of final paper. 5 points
- Final paper on topic of your choice in Jefferson studies or a related research context (7-8 pp. plus works cited). 20 points

Attendance at Graduate Student Colloquium 4/7-4/8 is a required component of this course. If you do not attend, your final grade will be lowered by one letter.

### **Policies regarding late work and attendance**

Late work will not be accepted.

Your final grade will be lowered by one letter for each class period missed.

## **Schedule**

---

**1/11** Course introduction

**1/18** Library orientation—Kelly Diamond: meet in Library electronic classroom (rm 136, new bldg) Shuffelton ed., Notes Harner (browse) RA1: report on WVU library holdings from section of Harner

**1/25** Textual studies Williams and Abbot In-class quiz on W and A

**2/1** Textual studies Shuffelton ed., Notes Peden ed., Notes RA2: comparison of Peden and Shuffelton editions of Notes focusing on significant variant

**2/8** Textual studies—Harold Forbes: meet in Rare Book Room (6th floor, Wise bldg) Peden ed., Notes RA3: enumerative bibliography of all editions of Notes + comments

**2/15** Presentations of case studies RA4: case study of transmission of a text + handouts for presentations

**2/22** Contexts for research; Harner, section Q; RA5: report on recent directions in Jefferson studies

**3/1** Contexts for research; Hallock, From the Fallen Tree

**3/8** Book reviews; RA6: "meta-review" + annotated bibliography of all reviews of Hallock

**3/15** Spring Break

**3/22** Abstracts and conference papers; Sample abstract and conference paper (photocopied);  
Final project: abstract + annotated bibliography for 7-pp. paper

**3/29** Media contexts for early texts; RA7: report on the web presence of Jefferson's *Notes*

**4/5** Class cancelled for attendance at colloquium; Mandatory attendance at Graduate Student  
Colloquium 4/7-4/8

**4/12** Discussion of colloquium; Workshop on drafts; Final project: draft of paper for workshop,  
including full list of works cited

**4/19** Presentations of final papers; Final project: presentation draft

**4/26** Presentations of final papers; Final project: presentation draft

Final draft of paper due Monday, May 1