

Seminar Notes & Papers

For *Monday's* Seminar

On Monday, everyone, regardless of whether they have an essay due, will bring typed Seminar Notes (at least two pages in length).

Something like a draft of your seminar paper, the Seminar Notes you bring **every** Monday will be a typed selection of notes and reflections from (or based on) your **reading notes***. You should create a short list of questions, include a few key quotations from the text, and craft your own brief reflections. When including quotations, take any opportunity to rewrite or summarize aspects of the reading in your own words. Or, when including a verbatim quotation, write a few sentences of reflection or analysis afterward. In any case, be sure to have clear citations for each quotation, summary, or paraphrase for later reference. This practice, an extension of your reading notes, will make your papers, essays, and syntheses significantly easier to construct.



For *Thursday's* Seminar

On Thursday, you will bring either your final Seminar Paper or a draft of your assigned Essay. You will revise your Essay and submit it by 2:00 pm the next day (Friday).

Seminar Papers are generally short pieces of writing in direct response to a program text. These short critical reflections will be due at each Thursday seminar, in a full and coherent form (compared to Monday's Seminar Notes). Writing for seminar should not be summative of the text, nor should it quote abundantly. Instead, a seminar paper should respond analytically to the text and raise and discuss significant issues.

You should *not* include comments on your personal feelings or experiences.

These writings will be central to the success of our seminar and should provide ample evidence of your individual engagement in the readings. In many of our Thursday seminars, these pieces will be a crucial feature of our work together. For instance, we might spend time passing papers around for others to read and comment on. You need to have your Seminar Paper with you (printed out) during the morning Writing Workshop session.

See the schedule on back to find out when you

have a *seminar paper* due

and when you have a *DRAFT* of an *essay* due.

Seminar Notes are Due every Monday.

Essays & Syntheses

Essays

You'll complete two 3-4 page essays in the fall. These will be focused pieces on assigned topics that will require you to perform careful and close readings of seminar texts. These essays should be strong demonstrations of your engagement with the program texts; your performance on them will help us to evaluate your ability to read critically and compose a strong, focused essay.

When it is your week to submit an essay, you'll bring

- Seminar Notes on **Monday** (probably strongly relevant to your essay but focused on the current text),
- a Draft of your Essay on **Thursday** (instead of a Seminar Paper),
- and a Revised Draft of your Essay the next day, **Friday**, by 2:00 pm.

Synthesis Essays

Similar to the essays, these two projects will each be 5-7 pages in which you draw connections between a range of program materials in order to argue a thesis about a central program theme. You'll be getting a lot more information and advice on how to complete these projects when the time is right.

w	text	A	B
1	Borges & Calvino	Seminar Paper 1	Seminar Paper 1
2	Oulipo	<i>Essay 1</i>	Seminar Paper 2
3	Oulipo	Seminar Paper 2	<i>Essay 1</i>
4	Fiction Pack	Synthesis Essay 1	Synthesis Essay 1
5	Hofstadter	Essay 2	Seminar Paper 3
6	Borges	Seminar Paper 3	Essay 2
7	Hardy & Davis/ Hersh	Synthesis 2 <i>Draft</i>	Synthesis 2 <i>Draft</i>
8	Lightman & Einstein	Synthesis 2	Synthesis 2
9	Stoppard	Seminar Paper 4	Seminar Paper 4
10			

A few basic expectations related to ALL your written work

Format

- Use double line spacing
- Create 1" margins
- No cover sheets or folders or binders
- Staple in the top left corner
- Print double-sided when convenient
- Use page-numbering
- Use a standard-looking font with serifs
- Use MLA formatting for citations and bibliography. *MLA Web Link:* <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>
- Indent long quotations
- Put titles of books in italics, titles of stories and articles in quotation marks.

Develop an Academic Style

- Use correct grammar, including correct usage, complete sentences, and proper punctuation.
- Use a formal, analytic tone, one without reference to your feelings and that focusses attention on ideas and the work at hand, not experiences or vague impressions.

