

**English 301-902: Introduction to the English Major**  
**Fall 2021: Weeks 9, 10, 11, 12 (19 October-11 November)**  
**Conducting and Applying Outside Research**  
**Dr. Mangum**

**I. Readings:**

**Stories:** "Cat Person," (Roupenian), "Winter Dreams" (Fitzgerald 474)," 429,  
"Sonny's Blues," (Baldwin 40).

**II. Schedule**

**NOTE: DATES BELOW INDICATE DAY BY WHICH THE WORK LISTED IS TO BE READ. Additional assignments due for each due date due to me by email will be announced through Blackboard. For your reading of the works, use the schedule below for your guide. For your written assignments Blackboard will be your guide. I will make assignments and due dates available both on the Announcement page and under the Assignments tab.**

**Week 9 (19, 21 October)**

Tuesday: "Cat Person" (on Canvas under Readings) (**Paper #3, AKA Close Reading Test emailed to you**)

Thursday: "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere" (ZZ Packer; On Canvas under Readings)

**Week 10 (26, 28 October)**

Tuesday: reading tba; introduction to MLAIB; **Paper #3 AKA Close Reading Test due back to me by midnight.**

Thursday: Read for discussion "Winter Dreams"

**Week 11 (2, 4 November)**

Tuesday: Reading Day: No Class (University Closed )

Thursday: "Winter Dreams"; by class time send summary of one outside scholarly article on story. In summary, state thesis of critical article. Turn in short (one paragraph) summary of article—not the article itself.

**Week 12 (9, 11 November)**

Tuesday: Read "Sonny's Blues"

Thursday: "Sonny's Blues"; by class time email me summary of one critical article, state thesis of critical article. By class time turn in brief summary—not the critical article itself.

**(Paper #4—Integrating Outside Critical Sources-- paper due on Tuesday 10 November)**

### **III. Description of Paper #3 (Close Reading Test): (due Tuesday, 26 October)**

This “paper” will actually be a test intended to have you bring the close reading and analytical skills you have been developing to bear on what will approximate a test like ones you will likely encounter (or that you have encountered). We will discuss this in detail a week or so before the test, and I will give you samples of the kinds of things to expect. There will be factual questions, but you will be asked to interpret and analyze the texts to be included on the test. It will be an open-book test. **We will discuss details and I will give you a study sheet for this.**

### **IV. Description of Paper #4: Integrating Outside Critical Sources (due on Tuesday, 16 November)**

For this paper you may choose any of the stories that we have already read and discussed (including “Winter Dreams” or “Sonny’s Blues.”) Locate **three** scholarly sources that you will read and include in your bibliography, and write a thesis-support paper of 3-5 pages in which you use **ONE** of these articles as a springboard into your paper. You will formulate a thesis (claim) in response to one of the articles (or book sections) you have selected. Use this source as a starting point for your own thesis. This means that you can agree or disagree with a point in the outside source (or its main premise), clearly present the critic's argument or point in your introductory paragraph, and then develop your own idea, either disagreeing with the critic or extending his or her point. The paper should contain a bibliography and you should document it using MLA style in the body of your paper. You must use the most current MLA Handbook (the 7<sup>th</sup> edition). We will discuss the mechanical aspects of this.