Understanding the Assignment (Important course terms in boxes)

As with Papers 1 and 2, you will write an in-depth analysis of a text, this time Sky Lee’s novel *Disappearing Moon Café*. This paper too should be thesis-driven, well organized and tightly edited. And again you will rely upon research sources provided by me (see “Sources” above).

*Disappearing Moon Café* is also (like *Book of Chameleons*) a post-modernist novel, and in this paper, you will begin to consider how it bends or breaks many narrative conventions. For example, it doesn’t follow chronological order nor stick with a consistent protagonist. To help prepare you for that task, you will read literary criticism about *Disappearing Moon Café*.

The Research Component

All of the papers you write for this class will have a research component; all will require you to become informed about the social and historical contexts of the literature by reading credible sources. For the first 3 papers, I’ll give you sources of different types so that you can learn the distinctions and their different uses. We’ll also talk about what makes these sources reliable or “credible.” For the last paper, you will collect and select your own sources.

For Papers 1 and 2, you were given popular sources, some primary, some secondary and some tertiary, all primarily informative. You used them to inform yourself about contexts and authorial intentions, and to explain them to your readers. For this paper, you will be introduced to new types of sources - scholarly sources that are primarily analytical – and in this unit we will focus on distinguishing between types of sources and their different uses. I have collected a variety of sources including primary, secondary and tertiary; scholarly and popular; textual and visual; ones that are primarily informative and ones that are primarily analytical, literary ones that focus on Lee’s novel and scholarly articles from other fields that could be useful to understanding it. I will use the full list in class to teach you to distinguish between types of sources and their different uses. However, you do not need to read all of these articles. You will use 2-3 of these in your paper. Those are the ones you will download, print and read.
In this unit, we will continue learning when and how to cite sources using MLA style. In addition to in-text parenthetical citations, you’ll learn how to do a Works Cited list. I have provided you the full citations on the Sources list so that you can begin to become familiar with the form.

Writing the Paper – Your 3 Tasks:

As with Papers 1 and 2, you will follow a 3-step process including specific Planning, Drafting and Revising tasks. These are required, and you are expected to produce evidence of having completed them.

Step 1. Before Beginning to Write:

Though you will not collect the sources for your paper from the library, you will begin to engage in the research process by generating ideas about what, in the novel, is researchable (in class pre-writing and small group exercise) and selecting sources from a much narrower pool - the Sources list I’ve compiled.

Another important part of the research process is learning to gage what to – and what not to – read. Before planning or drafting this paper, you will first choose between articles, selecting ones you can imagine writing from, and then choose within those articles the parts that are relevant to the novel and your paper, and thus need to be read more closely.

First, read the Sources list carefully, looking for ones that interest you. Click on links and read their abstracts – short summaries usually included at the beginning of scholarly articles – or intro paragraphs. Do this with several, not just 2-3, to get an idea of the pool of possible sources. Then choose 2-3 to use in your paper, at least one scholarly.

Print out those 2-3 sources and read them carefully; highlight important parts and write marginal notes. Become very familiar with the author’s point as well as how s/he lays out her/his argument. Do not try to “cover” the whole article, but rather focus in on passages that seem important to the author’s point and/or to your own paper.

Step 2. Writing the Paper:

This time your paper is about is up to you – but it must be closely related to one or more of the sources provided so that you can really use those sources. Possibilities include:

☞ a Response Paper to one of the scholarly literary criticism articles on the sources list, in which you first synopsize the scholarly author’s analysis of the novel and then go on to do a related analysis of your own of Disappearing Moon Café. Try to get your response part to equal your synopsis part in length and depth.

☞ a Historical/Literary Analysis paper analyzing how Lee represents one or more of the historical events or phenomena addressed by Takaki or Ngai. What do you think she is trying to convey about history, its impact on the present, or its relationship to personal lives?

☞ an analysis of how the social or psychological phenomenon addressed in one of the “scholarly articles from other fields” appears in the novel, and what you believe Lee is trying to convey about it.

Whichever you choose, follow these guidelines:

✓ Use and cite at least 2 sources from the list; at least one of these should be one of the scholarly ones.
✓ Center your analysis on the novel. Remember, this is a paper about Disappearing Moon Café, drawing on outside sources to understand it better (not, for example, a paper about Chinese railroad workers in which the novel is merely mentioned as an aside).
✓ Balance ideas culled from the sources with your own ideas. Avoid either writing a summary of one of the articles with only superficial response of your own, or at the opposite pole, a paper with only superfluous references to research sources.
✓ Populate your paper with quotes and paraphrases of the research sources and the novel; remember to cite them and always follow up quotes or paraphrases with interpretation/explanation to tie them to your own point.

Step 3. After you have finished writing your first (full) draft (but before turning it in):

Revision 1: Responsiveness to Assignment (hard or soft copy): Reread this assignment description and your First Draft, slowly and carefully, together. Locate each expectation and requirement, consider what it means, and locate the specific place(s) in your paper where you tried to accomplish it. Did you? Make note of what you discovered and changed in this process, to describe in your Writer Reflection (see below).

Proofread 1 (hard or soft copy): After revising for responsiveness to the assignment, do a comprehensive proofreading process: locate missing words, typos, spelling errors not caught by your spell-check like their/there, spacing and other layout errors, and punctuation errors. Pay special attention to issues you’ve been working on in error logs.

**Step 3. After Writing continued**

**Revision 2 (hard or soft copy):** Revise your paper again after completing the peer review workshop in class. If you were unable to come up with any improvements based upon that process, use this resource to help you: “Revision: Cultivating a Critical Eye” [http://facweb.northseattle.edu/cadler/resources_writing/Revision_Cultivating_a_Critical_Eye.pdf](http://facweb.northseattle.edu/cadler/resources_writing/Revision_Cultivating_a_Critical_Eye.pdf). After completing that revision, do another general proofread, then print out **Draft 3** (hard copy) and complete Proofread 2.

**Proofread 2 (hard copy):** On this your next to final draft (**Draft 3**), do a special check on your paragraph structure using this resource: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/). Examine the overall construction of your paragraphs, looking specifically at length, supporting sentence(s), and topic sentence. Individual paragraphs that are significantly lacking length or sufficient supporting information as well as those missing a topic sentence may be a sign of a premature or under-developed thought.

**Final Draft:** Revise again based on proofread 2, do a final general proofread, and print out a final hard-copy. Label it Paper 3 Final.

**Writer Reflection:** In class on the due date, you will write a brief Writer Reflection describing your writing, revising and editing processes. If you miss that class or come late, please complete it on your own (~ ½ page hand written).

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**What to turn in 11/23:**

**Pocket 1:** Paper 2 Final on top,
Drafts: Draft 2 with peer review workshop notes, Draft 3 with notes from Proofread 2,
Other: printouts of the articles you used with highlights and marginal notes (in some cases you may not have printed out the entire article), in-class pre-writing exercises, Writer Reflection.

**Pocket 2:** Paper 1 and all its extras (see Paper 1 assignment). These should be the copies with my comments.
Paper 2 and all its extras (see Paper 2 assignment). These should be the copies with my comments.