

AP English 12
Mr. Stumbaugh
AP Seminar/Thesis-Portfolio Assignments



Invisible Man, by Ralph Ellison

"I am an invisible man. No, I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allan Poe; nor am I one of your Hollywood-movie ectoplasms. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids - and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me." (from Invisible Man, prologue)

A. Seminar Topic: The varied roles of invisibility in the novel. I am looking for you to have a discussion on the novel, in class, based on your reading of the text, knowledge of critical theory, and analytical skills you have developed over the course of the year. You must look to develop an understanding of the various levels of invisibility experienced by the narrator and craft an argument which: a) shows how invisibility functions within the novel, b) reveals the purpose of such layers of invisibility on the narrator, and c) adds to our understanding of invisibility in light of the social framework of the 1950's.

Make sure to have notes/an outline (may be hand written or typed) to hand in after the seminar. Seminar date: May 19, 2008.

Total points for the Seminar=100 points (speaking 75 points, prep 25 points)

B. Seminar Thesis: The second phase of the seminar process is the development of an outline for a major paper that ***you will not write***. I need you to type an outline of a *proposed* 10-12 page paper. The "paper" you hand in will include the following pieces:

1. Title page (include title, your name, date, my name, and Seminar Thesis)
2. Abstract: a brief summary (one to two paragraphs) that includes what your thesis is, and how you are going to prove it. An abstract is a sort of summary that all major academic papers have preceding the actual work.
3. The outline: you may use whatever format you'd like, but I need to see enough information to fictitiously fill up ten to twelve pages. Make sure you follow intro, body, conclusion order.
4. A Works Cited page that includes at least four-seven critical articles that you have looked at in an effort to better understand your topic. (use your Questia account...use solid, academic scholarship)

The Seminar Thesis is due on Thursday, May 22nd, 2008.

Total points for the Seminar Thesis= 75 points (rubric to follow)