

Formal Paper 1: Interpretation of Literature (Honors)

- **Due Date/Time:**
 - **Rough Draft: Tuesday, February 24** (Bring hard copy to class and submit draft to appropriate ICON DropBox folder)
 - **Final Draft: Thursday, March 5** (Submit to appropriate ICON DropBox folder)
- **MLA Requirements:** paper, in-text citations, and works cited sheet formatted according to MLA guidelines
- **Paper Length:** 5-6 double-spaced pages
- **Grade Weight:** 10% of your final grade

Choose **one** of the questions below to answer. Your argument should be focused around one central claim and developed through quotation analysis.

Paper Focus Options:

1. Using at least one disability studies theorist to inform your argument, explain how you see the medical model of disability at work in one of the literary texts we've read in this unit. You'll need to not only demonstrate that the medical model is, in fact, at work in the text, but also explain how characters with disabilities react to this model. You should also indicate whether you think the author finds this model of disability problematic or useful and be able to defend your answer with relevant quotations and analysis.
2. In this class we've encountered the idea that normalcy and disability are two sides of the same coin—that the “hegemony of normalcy” depends upon deviations to reinforce what it holds up as standards. Using at least one disability studies theorist to inform your argument, explain how the hegemony of normalcy attempts to perpetuate itself in the fictional society in one of our readings. In other words, analyze how those who claim to be “normal” or able-bodied attempt to distance themselves or “other” those characters considered deviant and/or disabled. Make sure to indicate in your analysis whether these efforts are undermined or rewarded in/by the text. Claims must be defended with relevant quotations and analysis.
3. Using at least one disability studies theorist to inform your argument, explain how you see the clinical gaze operating in one of the texts we've read in the first unit. You'll need to not only demonstrate that the clinical gaze is, in fact, at work in the text, but you'll also need to explain how the gaze is functioning and what its effects are. Claims must be defended with relevant quotations and analysis.