English Conversation and Writing – Winter 2014

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Office hours:   
Mon. 12-1 p.m., Tues. 1-3 p.m., Wed. 10-12 a.m.

Final Assignments

1. Essay – 15 points

**First draft due (for Pedagogues): Monday December 1 (bring a hardcopy to class)  
First draft due (for Theologians): Wednesday December 3 (bring a hardcopy to class)  
Final draft due: Monday December 15 at 17:00**

Essays should be typed and be **no longer** than **two pages** with the following standardized elements: 12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, and 2.5 cm (1 inch) margins.

Email the **final draft** to Rebecca at [rpnathanson@gmail.com](mailto:rpnathanson@gmail.com) before 17:00 on Monday December 17. Please try to submit your essay on time.

Full-time students: Three points will be deducted for submissions 0-24 hours late; six points will be deducted for submissions 24-48 hours late. Submissions will not be accepted after December 17 at 17:00.

Part-time students: Part-time students who choose to write an essay ONLY will be graded on a 20 points scale for the essay.

**Citations:** Plagiarizing, or copying another’s work without citation, is forbidden. If you use a direct quote from the movie you must cite from where you retrieved using the MLA style of citation.

**Help:**

Citation chart: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/949/01/>

Citation machine (generates the citation for you): <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91u_iplrZlU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xAc4yZ8VSA> (The first three minutes are good.)

**Course website**:

[www.englishatfin.weebly.com](http://www.englishatfin.weebly.com)

**Office hours help:**

If you need help with your paper, come to my office hours or send me an email to make an appointment. There are no stupid questions. I am here to help you.

Paper Topics

1. Which story (the version with the tiger or the cook) do you choose to believe and why? Cite examples from the movie as well as your own personal experiences to support your argument.
2. Choose **one** of the quotes below and write a persuasive argument either in favor or against it. Support your argument using examples from the movie and your own life.
   1. When Pi is a child he learns and then tries to practice many religions at once. His father warns him and says, **“Believing in everything is the same thing as believing in nothing at all.”**
   2. Pi says **“animals have souls. [He] has seen it in their eyes”** but his father tells him that **“it is not their souls, it is only your own emotions reflected back at you and nothing else.”**
   3. When he is found on the beach Pi weeps but not because he is relieved he was found. Later he reflects, **“I suppose the art of life is an act of letting go…”**
   4. At the end of the movie, the novelist asks Pi if there is room for doubt in the life of a religious person. Pi responds, “**Doubt is useful. You wouldn’t know the strength of your faith until it has been tested.”**

2. Book Discussion – 5 points

Choose **one** book to read and participate in the final discussion which will take place at the end of the semester. More information and the date of the discussions will be announced later in the semester.

The Canterville Ghost (Stage 2)  
Hamlet(Stage 2)  
The Secret Garden (Stage 3)  
The Thirty Nine Steps (Stage 4)  
Great Expectations (Stage 5)