

“Ironic”

Due February 5 by 10 a.m. on Sakai Assignments or in hard copy at the start of class.

Choose any moment in vols. 2–3 of *Pride and Prejudice* in which rhetorical irony seems to you to be present. Now write a substantial paragraph (200 words) in which you contextualize the passage, quote it, explain precisely how and why it is ironic, and explain why this irony is significant. Consider, particularly, the effect of irony’s necessary indirection; the relationship to character that it induces; the significance of humor (if there is any); and the reasons for any difficulties in interpretation.

None of the framing machinery of an essay is required: focus all your attention on the details of the passage, quoting and re quoting. Cite carefully. Observe the literary-studies convention of relating *fabula* events in the present tense (“Darcy proposes,” not “Darcy proposed”). Observe the convention that the narrator speaks the text in the present tense (“Austen writes” or “the narrator says”).

GRADING

Full credit (4.0) will be given to exercises correctly identifying a moment of irony and discussing it in detail; exercises which show significant problems in identifying irony or which do not attend to details will receive lower marks. You may turn in up to four late exercises any time up until the last day of classes (May 2); a late exercise will receive no more than half credit (2.0).