SYLLABUS

The Syllabus should be based either on an actual course the student will be teaching in the fall semester—most likely a writing course—or a course that is on the English curriculum at the college at which the student has been assigned to teach [e.g., either a writing or a literature course that the student might teach at some point during the next three years].

The Syllabus should include a daily breakdown of readings, assignments, and scheduled in-class activities.

Along with the syllabus, students will submit an account (of no more than 1500 words) of how they would teach any one text from one class meeting on the syllabus (the text might be a poem, an essay, or part of a novel or longer work covered during a single class meeting). In this account, the student should first explain the overall design of the course (e.g., the aims and organization of the course theme/approach; the rationale for the selection of texts; the course objectives). The student should then explain how the selected text contributes to the overall design or purpose of the course. Finally, the student should produce a close reading or formal analysis of the selected text that demonstrates how s/he would teach about literary/rhetorical form and interpretation to undergraduates. If s/he so chooses, the student can also explain how s/he would design an in-class exercise or writing assignment around the selected text.

Students can fulfill some of the First Exam’s comprehensive stipulations in the Syllabus. For instance, a student who designs a syllabus for a Medieval through 17th-century British literature survey might produce a close reading of one of the Canterbury Tales and explain how his or her pedagogical approach to that text contributes to the overall design of the course: this would fulfill the pre-1800 stipulation, the three century stipulation, and part of the two national traditions stipulation. A student who designs a syllabus for a writing course might produce a rhetorical analysis of a 20th-century American essay that would fulfill the post-1800 stipulation, part of the three century stipulation, and part of the two national traditions stipulation.