

21L.003 Statement

I took the class to get some exposure to mostly Anglo-Saxon literature, and I am glad I did. I discovered a few authors that I really like (Leo Tolstoy, Virginia Woolf). It was amazing how what we learned while studying one work would come up when studying the following works.

I am now much more attentive to the opening and closing frame of a work. We've seen many examples of narrative frames throughout the semester, from Walter Scott's layered frames that create a historical distance and a sense of authenticity and Mary Shelley's narrative frame in *Frankenstein* to Tolstoy's in *Hadji Murád*. If before I might have glossed over the frame rather quickly, now I would ponder the choice and wonder what effects the author wanted the frame to have on the reader.

In addition, realizing how much the research presentations helped me understand the work, I am now much more inclined to research the historical context of a work I choose to read for pleasure.

In terms of writing, though I must admit writing an essay on a work was not as much fun as reading it, I feel I have improved. With Louise, I learned to turn my many disconnected observations about a work into an essay – and the key in moving from observations to analysis, which was very hard for me, was to ask questions.