

## ENGL 233/1 CA

### Suggested Final Paper Topics – Due 11 August (at the beginning of class)

Write a short essay (1,000-1,250 words) 30% on one of the following topics; or, if you have your own topic in mind, please consult with me before proceeding with the essay. Since the essay is short, be sure to be concise. While your paper should focus on a close reading or textual analysis and have a clear thesis statement, you are also required to use a minimum of three secondary sources. It is recommended that you use the MLA databases, available through Clues, or consult one of the research librarians in our library.

Assignments must be typed (double-spaced and 12 pt. font) and conform to MLA guidelines. Your name, my name, course number and date in upper left corner, stapled, word count on last page. For information of MLA documentation style, see Ch. 21, p. 1276 or [www.owl.english.purdue.com](http://www.owl.english.purdue.com)

Please note that email submissions will not be accepted unless permission has been granted. **Late papers** will not be accepted without a valid reason and marks will be deducted from papers over a week late. The latter will not receive any written comments.

Plagiarism: Presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own is a serious academic offence. See the Code of Conduct in the Undergraduate Calendar.

1. Write an essay exploring the symbolic or metaphorical significance of the masquerade or tarantella in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House*.
2. *A Doll House* was first performed in 1879, and its portrait of women's roles as daughters, wives, and mothers is in certain ways specific to the late nineteenth century, when—for example—a woman couldn't legally borrow money without her father's or husband's consent and seldom got custody of her children in cases of separation or divorce. Write an essay in which you analyze both how the play characterizes the role nineteenth-century women were expected to play as daughters, wives, or mothers, and why and how that characterization is and/or isn't relevant or accurate today.
3. Write an essay in which you discuss the ways in which the construction of gender (both male and female) at the end of the 1950s is complicated by race and class in Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*.
4. Write an essay in which you explore the character of Walter, Beneatha, or Lena Younger, discussing the ways in which this character does or does not develop over the course of the play. If you see this character developing, when and how does she or he do so? Which moments in the play seem especially revealing or significant from this point of view? Or write an essay in which you explain the role played by one of the minor characters in the play, such as George Murchison or Joseph Asagai. What worldview or value might this character represent within the play? What, specifically, does your character contribute to the play as a whole (thematically as well as structurally)?