

# the last essay

creativity & constraint: hard boiled wonderland

## Specifications

Minimum # of words: 1,500  
Maximum # of words: 2,500  
1.5 line spacing  
11 or 12 point typeface with serifs  
One inch margins  
Page numbers  
Stapled in upper left corner  
No cover sheet; minimal heading  
Full thesis as it appears in the body of the essay as title

## Requirements

A clear thesis—a claim with supporting claims.

Meaningful use of at least 2 of the 4 major texts (*A Void*, *Cloud Atlas*, Beckett plays/films, *The Conversions*) from this quarter in support of that thesis.

Meaningful use of at least 2 texts from the *Reader*.

You may use a text or texts from last quarter.

## Topic

Your essay must examine the relationship between *literature/writing* and *constraint* as embodied in program texts.

Your central claim and all supporting claims must therefore say something about constrained literature in general, not about particular texts, even though the texts will provide the evidence for your arguments.

## Schedule

Assignment	Due	in brief
Full Thesis (on form) and memo	<b>Friday, Week 6, by 4:00 pm</b>	On Wednesday of Week 6, we'll give you a thesis worksheet. It will also be available online for freshness.
Full Draft	<b>Bring notes &amp;c. to retreat. Draft due on Friday of Week 7, by 4:00 pm</b>	We'll have time on the retreat to discuss essay ideas and work on theses, organization, and evidence. Bring all materials with you. Turning in your full draft right after the retreat will take serious preparation and does not reward procrastination.
Meet with Tutors	{ this can and should be done each week }	Coupons available.
Revision Due for group Critique	<b>Full revisions due Wednesday of Week 9 for critique</b>	On Wednesday of week 9, we'll have time for peer critique and discussion of final essays, including opportunities to present your ideas.
Final Draft in Portfolio	<b>Tuesday of Week 10</b>	—