

## ENGL 306: Essay 2 – *The Hungry Tide*

LENGTH: 1200-1800 words + Works Cited.

Draft: Tu 4/10

Final: Th 4/12

Write an essay that addresses one of the following questions in **BOLD** (the secondary questions are only meant to provoke and guide you—it is not necessary to respond to every question):

1. **By analyzing the novel’s depiction of the non-human world (environments, animals, rivers, storms, etc.), develop an argument that explores the ways these non-human features/forces/actors reflect and/or influence identity in the text.** Identity is a complex subject (covering categories that include class, ethnicity, gender dynamics, belonging or not belonging to a community, goodness, natural-ness or unnatural-ness, spirituality, and more): you probably will want to focus on only one element of identity in the text. You are welcome to focus on a single character, multiple characters, even groups of characters. **Why is this specific depiction of identity noteworthy (whether in the world of the text and/or in our own world)?** Does it challenge or reinforce conventional expressions of this identity category?
2. **By analyzing the novel’s depiction of a boundary, whether physical (like an island, an embankment, a region, a river, pool, etc.) or social (like language, class, gender, nationality, cultural beliefs and practices, and more), develop an argument that explores the importance of that specific boundary. How does this boundary come into being, how is it reinforced, and what are the implications of crossing (transgressing) this boundary?** In other words, identify a boundary, observe why it is important in the novel, and note what happens when the boundary is crossed?
3. **Develop an argument that explores the novel’s representation of the tensions between social justice and environmental politics.** In what ways do these political movements come into conflict? Does the novel take a side in these conflicts? Be sure to focus on specific events and/or relationships in the novel. **In what ways does this depiction of the fraught nature of environmental politics reflect on environmental issues facing us today?**
4. **By analyzing the novel’s depiction of real historical events, develop an argument that explores the ways history informs events and relationships in Piya’s and/or Kanai’s narrative?** In other words, what is the role of time and history in the novel’s present moment? What is the effect of basing the novel on real world events and places (instead of fictionalizing it)? What does this historical subtext contribute to the novel and the experience of reading the novel?

Don’t forget the “so what?” element of the paper. Why is your argument and analysis important (whether in the context of the text or in relationship to the contemporary world)?

Grading will be based on the following

- 20% Thesis statement: depth, clarity, and validity
- 10% Topic sentences and transitions/**Paragraph structure**
- 20% Analytical depth and coherence: close reading, critical thinking, without too much plot summary
- 30% Organization/execution of argument/knowledge of text: analysis shows clarity, logic, and understanding
- 10% Quotations: appropriate, contribute to the argument
- 10% Professionalism: spacing, punctuation, page numbers, title, indentations, tone

### **DRAFT**

Students who fully participate in the draft workshop will receive a .5 letter grade markup on their final paper. Full participation means arriving with a hard copy of a reasonably full draft of your paper (at least 4 pages), not just bringing an outline, and reading and providing feedback to your classmates.