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ENG 3001-840: Advanced Composition

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ENG 3001 – ADVANCED COMPOSITION

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
Office: Coleman Hall 3321

Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu (The best way to reach me)
Cell #: (217) 722-8953 (text only please)

Texts: *Hand to Mouth*, Linda Tirado
Scenes of Writing, Amy Devitt, et. al.

Course Objectives include (but are not limited to):

- Understanding and practicing several different forms of writing
- Developing an effective writing *process*, including invention, drafting and revising.
- Learning to collect evidence and research related to writing
- Developing an effective mode of working with peers on peer review and editing.
- Incorporating substantial revision into the writing process.

NOTE: This is a writing-centered course. This means that some assignments are suitable for submission to the Electronic Writing Portfolio. It is your responsibility to submit the essay yourself; I will not be reminding you of procedures and deadlines. If you need help uploading an essay to the EWP, let me know!

POLICIES:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and will result in a grade of F for the assignment and possibly for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability, let me know what accommodations you require.

YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE. Do not skip any assignments and make sure all assignments are turned in to the proper place by midnight of the due dates. This course moves very quickly; there are a lot of assignments, a lot of due dates and a lot of reading. It is easy to fall behind and hard to catch up once you do, so do your best to keep up! The day-to-day work of this course is divided into 16 Modules. They are all posted already in the “Content” section of D2L. Each module has specific due dates and will consist of a reading assignment which will usually be accompanied by one or more writing assignments. You will have three different types of writing assignment and each type is explained below: 1) Essays; 2) Dropbox questions; 3) Discussion questions. If you have any questions, that’s great; feel free to ask them. Post them to the “Questions” folder in the Discussion board so that the whole class can see the answer: often, you are not the only one who wants to ask that question, so posting your questions helps me clarify things for the whole class. Of course, if your questions are personal in nature or specific only to you, you can either email me (through D2L or through my EIU account at the top of the syllabus) or text my cell (at the top of the syllabus).

Modules: This course will consist of 16 different modules which coincide with a particular date (see Assignment Schedule below). The day that a module is listed is the day that you should begin work on that Module, so for example, you should begin working on Module 1 on Monday, June 15. The due dates for each module’s activities and assignments will be provided in that module. Sometimes you will be

working on more than one activity at a time and so you will need to keep track of the various due dates. I will be happy to answer any questions about this as we go along.

Readings: Each Module will give you a reading assignment, usually from one of your two textbooks. Readings that are not in your textbooks will be uploaded to the Content section of D2L. You can find those readings in the corresponding module folder.

Discussion Board Posts: Because we do not meet in real time, your answers to these questions will take the place of class discussion. For that reason, you will post those answers to the corresponding Discussion board for that module. Sometimes you will have a single question to answer, sometimes more. The important thing to remember is that you **must answer the question**. Don't simply ramble on; longer does not necessarily mean better. Rather, focus your writing on the task of answering the question and providing ample textual evidence (quotations and examples from the reading) to prove your point. Your answers should be organized, in paragraphs and complete sentences. In other words, these are mini essays.

You will also need to read and respond to the answers that other students in the class provide. You do not need to respond to every single student every time, but there should be a good deal of give and take between you, just as there would be in a classroom setting. And I will chime in occasionally as well, but I will not dominate the conversation. Because this course moves so quickly from topic to topic, it is **vital** that you adhere to the posted due dates. If you respond late, we will have moved on to another topic or work and your answers will no longer be helpful to the class.

Make sure to post your discussion answers to the appropriate Discussion board (the module will tell you which Discussion Board to use. Discussion Boards can be found on the D2L homepage by clicking "Communications" and choosing "Discussions" from the drop-down menu.

Notice that there is a "Questions" discussion board. This is for general questions – I find it helpful for students to post their questions here so that all students can see them – and then they can also see my answers. This way, I don't have to answer a question multiple times. If your question is personal or particular to your situation, feel free to email or text me instead.

Written Assignments: Assignments **must** be submitted, in their entirety, **on the day they are due** unless you have made prior arrangements with me. Written assignments consist of those listed below, as well as several shorter assignments that are part of some modules. You must complete all major written assignments to pass this course. The **major** writing assignments should be turned in to the Dropbox with the appropriate label. Dropboxes can be found by clicking "Assessment" on the D2L Homepage and choosing "Dropbox" from the drop-down menu.

Peer Review: Before each of the major essay assignments are due, you will work with a group to distribute your draft and read the drafts of your peers, providing suggestions to aid them in the revision process. You will need to provide this feedback in a timely manner and your grade will be adversely affected if you do not. This kind of collaborative work is extremely helpful, to the essay reader as well as to the writer. However, although I want you to read each other's essays and help each other with them, do not collaborate to the extent that you borrow each other's words, phrases or ideas.

ASSIGNMENTS

Employment Narrative (4-5 pages): This assignment requires you to write a coherent narrative describing a job you once held or now hold.

Analysis Essay: Career Research (4-5 pages): For this assignment, you will do some outside research about the job you wrote about for your narrative. What can you find out about your specific company or workplace? About this type of job in general? What kind of life would this job provide for someone who did it for a living?

Argumentative Essay: *Hand to Mouth* Update Research Essay (4-5 pages): Do some outside research about one aspect of Tirado's narrative and whether it still holds true today.

Resume: This assignment will consist of your resume and a personal inventory that you will do prior to the resume but which will help you in crafting the resume.

Proposal: Final Project: Proposal or Unit Plan:

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Board Posts/Peer Review	30%
Employment Narrative	10%
Analysis: Career Research Essay	15%
Argument: <i>Hand to Mouth</i> Analysis Essay	15%
Resume	15%
Proposal: Final Project (Unit Plan)	15%

What you can expect from me

The following is a list of responsibilities that I will fulfill as your instructor. As part of your Module 2 assignment, you will be constructing a similar list of student responsibilities.

- 1) I will construct a collegial course environment where all course members treat each other with respect.
- 2) I will respond to your questions in a timely fashion.
- 3) I will grade your assignments in a timely fashion.
- 4) I will treat your ideas as important contributions to our learning and create an atmosphere where we as a class construct meaning together.
- 5) I will treat all students fairly and with respect.

Grading Rubric for Discussions and Essays

A **grade of A** indicates work that is truly outstanding in every way. In addition to completely and promptly fulfilling the basics of the assignment, work that receives an A grade provides a depth of insight and analysis that adds substantively to the conversation surrounding the literary text. This level of work engages deeply with the themes, issues and ideas involved in the particular text being studied and often links those themes, issues and ideas to the larger ones reflected in the discussion from the overall course. In this way, such work helps all who read it understand the literary text better and more deeply. A-level

work is rare and it **should be noted that merely writing MORE than what was assigned does not necessarily merit a grade of A.**

A grade of B indicates that, in addition to completing the assignment on time and completely, you have provided a depth of insight and analysis that shows that you have thought deeply about the assignment and its implications, that you have engaged actively with the reading, have thought much about it and this thought is reflected in clear, cogent and insightful writing which engages with deeper meanings of the text and which possibly connects this text to others from the course and with overall themes of our course. In other words, B-level work does more than simply complete the assignment. B-level work engages deeply with the assignment. **It should be noted that merely writing MORE than what was assigned does not necessarily merit a grade of B.**

A grade of C indicates that you have completed the assignment as required in an adequate, satisfactory and punctual manner. All necessary components of the assignment are present and completed according to what was required. The writing is clear and grammatically correct. **In other words, just doing the assignment adequately and on time will earn you a grade of C.**

A grade of D indicates that the assignment does not meet the requirements of the assignment in some respect. Although parts of the assignment may be satisfactory, an assignment that merits a D is incomplete, is late, OR does not adequately address the requirements of the assignment. In other words, an assignment might be given a D if it does not engage adequately with the question or the literary text in question. **Note that a grade of D may be given to work that *partially* completes the assignment, but is not complete or punctual.**

A grade of F indicates that the assignment is either extremely late and/or incomplete OR that it does nothing to engage with the question asked or with the literary text being discussed.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

M June 15	Module 1
W June 17	Module 2
F June 19	Module 3
M June 22	Module 4
W June 24	Module 5 and Employment Narrative Due
F June 26	Module 6
M June 29	Module 7
W July 1	Module 8 and Career Research Essay due
F July 3	No New Module – July 4 Break

M July 6	Module 9
W July 8	Module 10 and <i>Hand to Mouth Analysis</i> essay due
F July 10	Module 11
M July 13	Module 12
W July 15	Module 13 and Resume due
F July 17	Module 14
M July 20	Module 15
W July 22	Module 16
F July 24	Final Project due by 11:59pm