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ENG 1001G-003: Composition and Language

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1001 Course Syllabus and Policies

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is not to force-feed you unnecessary skills. Instead, I am aiming to arm you with the tools you will need to produce proper academic writing here at Eastern Illinois University and beyond. These include critical, analytical, argumentative and descriptive techniques, along with other vital reading/writing approaches. This will only work if you take an interest and actively participate in the course. I am here for you, so take advantage of my experience to learn something useful that you will use for the rest of your life. I will be incorporating a number of films – mostly documentaries – into the class, as I want to keep abreast of technology and to insure our topics are diverse. This does not mean we won't be doing actual work – I will still require 4 papers (Informative, Argumentative, Narrative/Descriptive, and Research) and continuous, rigorous participation.

Absences:

Let me stress that this is your course – you will decide what we do and how we do it. That being said, you cannot learn if you do not come to class. I am a student so I know how it works: false reasons for missing class will not be tolerated. Obviously, things can come up, but I will want documented proof of your reason, be it legal, medical, or university-related. For me the magic number is three: you get three unexcused absences before your grade takes a hit. Starting with the fourth one, I will deduct 5% from your overall Attendance (see below): no exceptions. I can be nice and easy and lenient... if you work with me.

Plagiarism:

It should go without saying that copying (cheating) will not be accepted in the class. You are expected to produce original work, not copy and paste stuff from random websites. If I think you are committing plagiarism it is my right – and duty – to report you to Judicial Affairs. From there, you could be facing expulsion from EIU. So, rather than risking your academic career, just do your own work.

Participation:

Again, this is tied very directly to every other aspect of this course. We can have a lot of fun together if you put forth the effort that I ask for, or you can spend 16 grueling weeks trying to find reasons to skip class. Coming to class doesn't just mean sitting at a desk – you must actively participate during in-class discussions on a daily basis. I want your thoughts, your comments, and your opinions; when we have in-class writings you must fulfill the requirements; when we do group work each member must contribute individually and substantially. This class depends on communication between all of us, and by keeping quiet you are creating the worst possible atmosphere for our purposes.

Late Assignments:

Again, I am very laid back and understand that your life doesn't revolve around our class. However, this is a required course and I expect you to treat it as such. You have one week to hand in a late assignment, minus 10%: after that you will receive a zero

Conferences:

We will meet frequently for one-on-one conversations through-out the semester. These will count as class time, which means if you miss a conference it is the same as missing a class. I expect you to come to conferences willing and ready to talk about your writing and the class. This will also be a great time to personally take advantage of me as a writer and teacher – bring questions about anything.

Email:

While I realize everyone may not have a computer at home, this is the Age of Technology – we will take advantage of this and communicate through email often. Please get used to checking your inbox regularly, as I will keep in touch through this medium. If, for example, you missed class, you will have a list of everyone's email and you can then find out what we did in the time you were gone.

Required Texts:

For this class we will be using both *The Blair Handbook* and *The World is a Text*. However, I will possibly bring in outside sources, from print articles to movies. In order for you to participate, you must, of course, come to class prepared with the required reading/assignment ready. If you do not bring your book then you are not a part of the class and I will count you as absent.

Questions?

We can discuss and communicate and interact and walk away from this course having learned something, or you can make each class drag by. My office hours are **Monday 2-3:30pm, Tuesday/Thursday 5-6pm**, but feel free to schedule a meeting with me for other times. Come and talk to me about anything and everything – that is what I am here for. Let me know if something about the course doesn't feel right, or if you really need some extra help with something. I will respond to you as long as you are doing what I ask in the class room.

Percentage Break-down:

Attendance – 10%
Short Writings – 20%
Participation – 10%
Essays – 60%
Total – 100%

Schedule of Assignments & Readings

(This is open to change at anytime depending on the needs of the class)

Week 1 (Aug 26/28):

- Introduction; Policies and Syllabus
- Ebert, 314; Thesis Presentation

Week 2 (Sept 2/4):

- Discuss E1; Informative Essay Presentation and Ex.
- McGowan, 561; TBA

Week 3 (Sept 9/11):

- An Inconvenient Truth* (100 mins)
- Cont. film; In-class writing

Week 4 (Sept 16/18):

- Discuss film; TBA
- Draft E1; TBA

Week 5 (Sept 23/25):

- Conferences
- Conferences

Week 6 (Sept 30/Oct 2):

- High Cost of Low Prices* (95 mins); **Final E1**
- Cont. film; In-class writing

Week 7 (Oct 7/9):

- Discuss film; Transition Presentation
- Discuss E2; Argumentative Essay Presentation and Ex.

Week 8 (Oct 14/16):

- Grammar Workshop I; TBA
- Draft E2; Title Presentation

Week 9 (Oct 21/23):

- Conferences
- Conferences

Week 10 (Oct 28/30):

- Stranger Than Fiction* (113 mins); **Final E2**
- Cont. film; In-class writing

Week 11 (Nov 4/6):

- Discuss film; Discuss E3; Descriptive Essay Presentation
- Tan, 261; Atwood, 596

Week 12 (Nov 11/13):

- Draft E3; Discuss E4; Research Essay Presentation
- Library Presentation; Research Examples (Readings, etc)

Week 13 (Nov 18/20):

- How Art Made the World* (290 mins); **Final E3**
- Cont. film; In-class writing

Week 14 (Nov 25/27):

- No Class**
- No Class**

Week 15 (Dec 2/4):

- Sources and Quotes Presentation; MLA Presentation
- Draft E4; Grammar Presentation II

Week 16 (Dec 9/11)

- Conferences**
- Conferences; Final E4 (Friday, Dec 12)**

Last Day of Classes – Dec. 12th