Summer 6-15-2005

ENG 3001-735: Advanced composition

Angela Vietto
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_summer2005
Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_summer2005/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2005 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Summer 2005 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tbruns@eiu.edu.
ENGLISH 3001.735

ADVANCED COMPOSITION

SUMMER 2005

Dr. Angela Vietto
217-549-2417 (cell)
avietto@gmail.com
Office: 3345 Coleman Hall
Office hours: By appointment
Class web site: http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfarv/3001.html

Texts
No required texts for this course.

Objectives
Our objectives in this course are
• to practice the principles of effective expository writing and
• to develop your writing style.

Projects & Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action letter</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsolicited recommendation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book recommendation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The English Department’s Statement on Plagiarism
“Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

Disability Information
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Projects Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Friday June 24 6:30-9:30 pm | Introductions  
Audience-centered communication  
Process approach to writing | Introductory survey  
Prior knowledge exploratory writing |
| Saturday June 25 8 am-7 pm | Adapting to audience and purpose  
Persuasive strategies  
Organization  
Descriptive outlining | In-class exercises |
| Wednesday July 6 9 pm | Descriptive outlining and editing  
Mechanics  
Style | Style exercises (done in class) |
| Friday July 8 6:30-9:30 pm | Ethos and tone  
Focus group activities | Due via email, saved in MSWord or rich text format (.rtf)  
(avietto@gmail.com) by 9 p.m.:  
• Action letter  
• Unsolicited recommendation  
• Narrative |
| Saturday July 9 8 am-7 pm | Due via email, saved in MSWord or rich text format (.rtf)  
(avietto@gmail.com) by 9 p.m.:  
• Profile  
• Book recommendation  
• Revision of one of last week’s assignments |
| Friday July 22 6:30-9:30 pm | Focus group activities | In-class exercises |
| Saturday July 23 8 am-7 pm | Review/practice | In-class exercises |
ENGLISH 3001: PROJECTS

Unsolicited Recommendation

Using a real or fictional employment scenario, write a memo offering unsolicited advice to a co-worker, supervisor, or subordinate about some aspect of your work. In addition, write a brief cover memo addressed to me in which you explain the employment scenario (what organization or company you work for, your position, the position of the person to whom you are writing, and whether that person is your supervisor, co-worker, or subordinate).

Length: As long as necessary to achieve your goal. Ideally, this could be accomplished in a memo no longer than 2 double-spaced pages.

Due on Wednesday, July 6, via email attachment (in MSWord or rich text format, sent to avietto@gmail.com).

Action Letter

Write a letter designed to request and inspire action on some issue that matters to you. Be sure to write to an audience that can take the action you’re requesting, or else lobby the appropriate people. Good possibilities include letters to the editor (of a specific newspaper or magazine) or to governmental representatives.

Length: As long as necessary to be persuasive, but not so long as to keep readers from reading the entire letter. Ideally, no longer than 3 double-spaced pages.

Due on Wednesday, July 6, via email attachment (in MSWord or rich text format, sent to avietto@gmail.com).

Narrative

Write an account of an event or an experience that has made a strong impression on you. Your objective will be to recreate that strong impression so that your readers can, in some degree, experience it themselves. Keep in mind that you have a real audience here—your classmates—so write about something you’re comfortable sharing with them. Also keep in mind that, in order to really recreate an experience for a reader, you’ll need to go into a fair amount of detail, so the event or experience you’re describing should be fairly limited in scope. Consider using techniques you’re accustomed to seeing in fiction—dialogue, descriptive detail, vivid language. But be sure to choose details carefully—don’t overwhelm us with detail for its own sake. Rather, select specific details that will help evoke the impression this event or experience made on you.

Length: About 1000 words (around 4 double-spaced pages).

Due on Wednesday, July 6, via email attachment (in MSWord or rich text format, sent to avietto@gmail.com).
Write a profile of a person who’s been important to you. As with the narrative, your objective will be to try to recreate for a reader the effect this person has had on you. (That is, to make the reader feel it, not merely to tell them about it.) You might choose to do this by recounting one single event that sums up this person’s character. Or you could write a more general profile that ranges throughout that person’s life, perhaps focusing on repeated events or two parts of a person’s life. You might also choose from one of a number of genres that require us to talk about someone we know well: wedding toast, eulogy, retirement speech.

Length: 500-1000 words (about 2-4 double-spaced pages)

Due on Wednesday, July 20, via email attachment (in MSWord or rich text format, sent to avietto@gmail.com).

Choose a book of nonfiction, fiction, or poetry to recommend to your classmates. The book must meet the following requirements: You must feel its content, at least potentially, would be important or interesting to most of your classmates; you must also feel it exemplifies excellent writing; and it should be readily available (that is, not out of print). If you need recommendations, I’d be happy to provide a few.

You can think of this assignment as a book review, if you like, but keep in mind that I’m essentially asking you to write a review of a book that you find praiseworthy, and with the specific intention of persuading your classmates that they should take the time to read this book.

Your review should address both the content and the writing style of the book. Provide background about the author only if you think it’s important to interesting us in the reading.

Length: 750-1000 words (about 3-4 double-spaced pages)

Due on Wednesday, July 20, via email attachment (in MSWord or rich text format, sent to avietto@gmail.com).

Using my comments and those you received from your classmates, revise one of last week’s assignments.

Due on Wednesday, July 20, via email attachment (in MSWord or rich text format, sent to avietto@gmail.com).