

Fall 8-15-2009

ENG 1001G-004: Composition and Language

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Professor John Martone
English 1001: *The Image of Life*

Office: CH3751
email: jpmartone@eiu.edu
Office hour: MWF 9:00, and by appt.

Texts from TRS

Goshgarian, *The Contemporary Reader*

Online Text

An Album for The Image of Life <http://ux1.eiu.edu/~jpmartone/album.ppt>

Description

English 1001 is the first of a two-course sequence in writing. This semester we will practice some important modes of writing (description, analysis, narrative, comparison/contrast, persuasion, argumentation) in a *semiotic* context. Semiotics is the study of signs, the science of a contemporary world in which we are constantly asked to 'read' visual images as well as more traditional texts. This course thus aims both to improve your reading and writing skills and to deepen your understanding of the ways meaning is made in our world.

Procedures

You will write an average of 500 words a week on the photographs in our album, adjusting your point of view according to the objectives of the assignment. Typically, Mondays and Wednesdays of a given week will be devoted to discussion of a photograph and the issues it raises. Fridays will often focus on short readings (to be announced each Wednesday) deriving from our discussions.

We will regularly write in class, so please come prepared with appropriate materials. When asked, please bring hard copies of assignments in progress.

Use MS Word's default margins (t/b, 1"; l/r, 1.25") for your work and use a 12 pt. font. Double-space. Do not use a cover page. Put your name and the title of your work at the top of the first page. Do not number the first page, but number subsequent ones in the upper right-hand corner.

Every Friday, you must email me (jpmartone@eiu.edu) that week's writing assignment in the format just described.

The subject line of your email must read: 1001 *yourlastname mo/da*

Send your work as an attached .doc file. The filename should read *yourlastname mo/da*

Create a folder titled *yourlastname portfolio* on your computer/flash-drive to hold all your work. Keep a copy of every assignment in this folder.

Evaluation

English 1001 is an ABC/NC course. You must earn a grade of C or better to receive credit.

All assignments will be equally weighted and graded on a 4-point scale (A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; F=0).

You will revise *at least* one assignment in this class. Grades for revised work will replace original grades.

Your final grade will also reflect class attendance and participation (as reflected by your performance in our discussions and on reading quizzes). You are permitted two absences for any reason. Any additional absence will lower your final grade by at least one letter.

Academic Honesty

The English Department requires the reading of the following statement in all freshman writing classes:

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. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

For further discussion of ethics in the writing class, consult the department's Field Guide to Writing at EIU (http://www.eiu.edu/~english/student/documents/Field_Guide_to_Writing_2006.pdf).

Schedule

Week of...

August

- 24 Introductions, Topic: Lange, *Migrant Mother*. (description, analysis)
- 31 Topic: Lange, *White Angel Breadline* (description, analysis)

September

- 9 Walker Evans (description, analysis)
- 14 Cindy Sherman, *Untitled Film Stills* (narrative)
- 21 Cindy Sherman, *Untitled Film Stills* (narrative)
- 28 Conferences

October

- 5 Elizabeth Eckford, Emmett Till (historical narrative, use of evidence)
- 12 War photos (historical narrative, use of evidence)
- 19 Propaganda
- 26 Orwell, *Politics and the English Language* http://orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e_polit

November

- 2 Conferences
- 9 Carl De Keyser/ Diane Arbus (comparison/contrast)
- 16 Diane Arbus (multiple images); Evans/ Van Gogh; or Pollock/Gordon (comparison/contrast)
- 23 Thanksgiving Recess
- 30 Weston, Duane Michals (argumentation)

December

- 7 Revision. Conclusions.
- [There is no final examination in this course.]