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# ENG 1001G-011: Composition and Language

Mary Dwiggins  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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## **ENG1001: Composition and Language**

**Spring 2010**

Considering Our Place in the World

Instructor: Mary Dwiggins

Office: Coleman 3762

Office hours: MWF 11:00-  
11:50 and by appointment

Phone: 581-6319

Email: [madwiggins@eiu.edu](mailto:madwiggins@eiu.edu)

Home Page:

<http://ux1.eiu.edu/~madwiggins>

### **Texts:**

The Contemporary Reader by Gary Goshgarian

This I Believe edited by Jay Alison and Dan Gediman

A Pocket Style Manual by Diana Hacker

Writing: A guide for college and beyond by Lester Faigley

One Flash drive and one pocket folder (I will supply folder)

### **Course Objectives:**

In this ENG1001, we will explore issues that encourage students to consider their place in the world and their impact upon it. By reading, writing, discussing, and reflecting on these issues, students will be challenged to examine what they believe and how they

arrived at those beliefs. It is my hope that we can learn some pretty neat stuff about ourselves and about the world around us.

Our primary focus, though, will be on critical reading of these texts and effective academic writing. Because writing texts cannot be separated from reading and thinking about texts, those challenges will draw not only on your writing skills, but also on your critical thinking and reading abilities. The best way to develop and hone these skills is to read, write, and think together as an academic writing community. Therefore, in this course, you will engage in reading, writing, and thinking critically about various kinds of texts. Peer evaluations and group work will be used extensively.

**General Bulletin Course Descriptions:** English 1001G. Composition and Language is a writing centered course in the reading and writing of expressive, expository, and persuasive texts. Attention is given to effective expression, clear structure, adequate development, and documentation of sources. Prerequisite: English 1000 or proficiency in basic skills as determined by the English Department. Students who have ACT scores of 14 or below, or who have no test scores on file with the University, must pass English 1000 before enrolling in English 1001.

### **Learning Goals:**

Upon completing English 1001, students should be able to:

- Write informative and persuasive essays clearly and concisely in standard written English that are direct, economical, free of ambiguity, structurally appropriate for the ideas expressed and suitable to the purpose of the text
- Evaluate and critique their own and their peer's writing and assist fellow students in their writing and revision.
- Understand and evaluate culturally diverse course materials reflecting historically, socially, and culturally relevant issues.
- Conduct research to participate in academic inquiry.

### **Requirements:**

**Written papers:** We will write **three essays** this semester. Two are worth 100 points. One is a research project which will generate 250 points. In this research project, you will generate a proposal, a bibliography, a double entry journal and other small assignments heading towards the research paper. A portion of each paper also includes peer review and the process of writing the paper, thus drafts and plan sheets need to be turned in with each paper. Papers will be graded on focus, organization, development, style and awareness of audience, mechanics, and process. All papers are to be typed double-spaced and your name, class and section number placed in the upper left-hand corner. Please be aware that I generally do not accept late papers. Also, all papers must be completed to pass this class.

**Response papers:** You will write **6 reading responses** to selected topics. This is worth **25 points each for a total of 150 points**. More about this later.

**Late Paper Policy:** Here are some general principles. An assignment is late if it is not ready at the start of class: printed and with all of the necessary drafts included. If you do not attend class and then deliver a paper at the end of the session (or later in the day) that assignment is already late. If you have completed an assignment on time but cannot attend class because of an emergency, e-mail the paper to me as an MS Word attachment before class or deliver the assignment to my mailbox in the English Department office before the class begins. Please do not leave your work with the Department Secretary or slide it under my office door. If multiple drafts are due, bring those to the next class, or you will not receive credit for your work.

Please note that some situations are not emergencies. The mechanics of printing papers is a part of the writing process; allow time for possible printer, disk, or network muddles. Avoiding last-minute print-jobs significantly minimizes these troubles. Get to know your programs, your personal computer, and the limitations of the computer labs on campus.

**Group discussion** You will lead the class in a group discussion centered on the reading of the day. A handout will be distributed detailing the requirements. This is worth 50 points

**Pop quiz:** I don't like to give quizzes. In the event, however, I notice that students are unprepared for class and not reading assignments, I will institute them. This could be worth as much as **50 points and I will adjust the grading scale accordingly**.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP):** All EIU students are required to submit an essay their freshman year to their Electronic Writing Portfolios from a writing intensive course. To submit an essay for the EWP, go to the EWP website at <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php>.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is required. Interaction among members of the class is vital to the learning experience; if you aren't here, it can't happen. With the exception of rare and extreme circumstances, I do not distinguish among kinds of absences for attendance purposes. Contact or see me immediately if rare and extreme circumstances arise which will affect your class attendance.

You are expected to be present every day your class meets, but to accommodate accidents, illnesses, and emergencies; I allow 4 absences without penalty. Absences beyond this limit are considered excessive and result in grade reductions. Reductions will be taken on a percentage basis from the total number of points possible in the course. Students are expected to arrive in class on time in order to be counted present.

For MWF classes, the following policy will apply: you may miss 4 times without an automatic grade reduction; 5 absences = a final grade reduction of 5%; 6 absences = a

final grade reduction of 10%; 7 absences = a final grade reduction of 20%; 8 = failure of the course.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All students are expected to uphold professional standards for academic honesty and integrity in their research, writing and related performances. Academic honesty is the standard we expect from all students. 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 . . . 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.

Read the Student Handbook for further explanation. If you have difficulty with any assignment in this course, please see me rather than consider academic dishonesty. The following apply specifically to academic misconduct in this course:

- **Plagiarism:** The appropriation, theft, purchase, or obtaining by any means another's work, and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one's own. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another's work without giving credit.
- **Collusion:** Prohibited collaboration with another in preparing work.
- **Fabrication/Falsification:** Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves altering information for use in any academic exercise. Fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- **Multiple Submissions:** The submission by the same individual of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once in the same or another course without authorization.
- **Complicity in academic misconduct:** Helping another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

Turnitin.com may be useful to students in addressing any plagiarism concerns they may have. Eastern Illinois University students may learn more about how to properly cite sources and maintain the highest degree of academic integrity with the Turnitin online program. All Eastern Illinois University faculty may, at their discretion, use Turnitin.

### **Grading scale:**

As you can see, you can receive a total of 650 points. Grade will be assigned as followed:

585-650= A range

520-584=B range

455-519=C range

454 or below =NC

Grades for individual assignments will be determined according to the Guidelines for evaluating Writing assignments in EIU's English Department (attached). Be sure to read these guidelines fully as they will help you to understand what is expected of your work. Keep in mind that adequate, average work will receive a C, and excellent work will receive an A. The possible final grades for English 1001G are A, B, C, NC and INC. In other words, you cannot pass this course with D-level work. If your grade for the course is less than a C, you will receive an NC for the course and you must then retake the entire course to receive credit. Please remember that your grade for an essay will be determined not just by your final draft, but also by your revision work.

In addition, you must turn in all assignments to receive credit for the course. If you fail to turn in one of your assignments, you will receive an NC for the course.

### **There is no final exam in English 1001.**

#### **Expectations for Classroom Behavior**

Faculty members have the responsibility and the authority to maintain a productive educational environment in the classroom. It is the responsibility of the student to practice conduct conducive to learning by being prepared, prompt, attentive, and courteous in the classroom and by accepting policies set forth by the professor to maintain an academic decorum.

Acceptable classroom behavior is behavior that encourages critical inquiry and thought and promotes a shared community of learners. Focused attention on the tasks at hand and respect for fellow peers are expected. During classroom discussions and presentations, you need to listen carefully to others and be prepared to add relevant insight and responses.

Behavior that repeatedly interferes with my ability to teach class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program include: constant idle chit-chat, idleness, irrelevant use of computers, routine late arrival or early departure, inappropriate interruptions (such as back-pack shuffling or cell phone use), use of threatening language and personal insults toward the professor or other students. This behavior is inappropriate and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.

Also, cell phones are to be turned on vibrate.

## Writing Center

You can receive valuable help with your writing by visiting the English Department's Writing Center. The Writing Center is a free, one-on-one service staffed by trained graduate assistants who tutor students on all types of writing related activities for improving writing, reading, and critical thinking processes in a friendly, relaxed, and supportive environment. The Writing Center helps with all aspects of writing, from brainstorming for ideas to overcoming writer's block, to the final editing and proofreading strategies, as well as advice for drafting, expanding and organizing your writing. The Center also offers help with proper documentation style and plagiarism concerns. Remember to bring with you your assignment sheet and/or your draft for each of your writing projects. The Center is located Coleman Hall room 3110. Although walk-ins are accepted, scheduled appointments have priority and are recommended. For an appointment or to ask a question from the grammar hotline call 581-5929.

### **Special needs:**

#### Disability Accommodation Policy

Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you should submit your documentation to the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**Disclaimer:** If necessary, the syllabus can change, so if you feel we are going too fast or too slow, tell me and we can change things.