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ENG 3300-001 Seminar in English Studies

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ENGLISH 3300-Seminar in English Studies: Becoming a Public Intellectual

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
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Class: Coleman Hall 3140, MWF, 1:00-1:50pm
Office Hours: MWF 12-1pm, W 3-4pm or by appt.

The world needs to hear from smart people who can think critically and communicate well. The world needs to hear from you. In this course, we will explore the myriad ways you can bring your substantial skills as an English major to bear in various public forums, from newspaper editorials, magazine and blog entries, multi-modal projects, effective web and twitter presences, as well as more traditional essays and presentations.

Identity & Culture
Genre, Form, & Poetics
Education & Society
Media, Technology & Popular Culture

Objectives Include (but are not limited to):

- Advance their critical reading skills in various genres and media within English studies.
- Demonstrate research skills in one or more fields within English studies using scholarly databases and archives.
- Develop analyses of scholarly or public documents in various media with attention to literary, rhetorical and/or public contexts.
- Develop critical writing skills and strategies by producing documents of various length and complexity for various audiences.
- Bring their English studies skills into engagement with regional, national and/or international issues.
- Present or otherwise disseminate their work in a public forum.

TEXTBOOKS:

Oryx and Crake, Atwood – this was your winter break reading.
The Year of the Flood, Atwood
The Sum of Us, Heather McGhee
Maus I & II, Art Spiegelman
Hand to Mouth. Linda Tirado
Writer/Designer,
Various other articles, uploaded to D2L

UNIVERSITY COVID STATEMENT: The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates, and loved ones at home. All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class. Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations. Students should not attend class if they are ill and should consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19-like symptoms. EIU's COVID-19 campus practices including face coverings, when and where required, avoiding campus if sick, sanitizing surfaces, social distancing, and hand washing all of which are based on the best available public health guidance. Everyone in the campus community is responsible for following practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability

Services (studentdisability@eiu.edu or 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [<https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>]. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

Disability Services: If you have a *documented* disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Services in McAfee 1210. See the site: <https://www.eiu.edu/disability/> as soon as possible. I will ensure you are accorded all the aid you require.

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center is in McAfee 1301. See the site: <https://www.eiu.edu/success/>

Tech Support: If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

POLICIES:

Written Assignments: This is a writing course. For that reason, you must complete ALL written assignments listed below in order to pass; even if you could *mathematically* get a passing grade without turning in a shorter assignment, you must turn it in or you will not pass. For each major writing assignment, you will receive a formal assignment sheet; we will discuss these assignments in-depth in class before they are due so you will always know what is expected of you.

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

Office Hours: I will require you to come to see me in my office once during the semester (see syllabus), but I encourage you to come see me whenever you like. Come to ask questions, discuss problems or just to chat. The hours listed above are times when I will definitely be in my office ready to meet with students but I am available at other times as well, so you can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. We can also easily set up Zoom meetings.

Electronic Writing Portfolio: Your final research essay is ideal for the EWP; the other assignments for this course are not sufficient. If you wish to include your research essay in your EWP, remember that you MUST turn it in by the end of the semester. See me if you would like some help in doing this.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-reported to the Office of Student Standards.

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 can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Intended for students in their junior year of study, this seminar emphasizes research and writing skills and their applicability in academic and nonacademic contexts. Topics vary each semester but will cohere around considerations of the role of English studies in public discourse and culture. Required of English majors.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN:

- Writing to Incite to Action: Letter to editor 10%
- Writing to Inform: Blog Post 20%
- Writing to Entertain & Inform: Researched fiction/creative nonfiction 20%
- Writing to Inform & Persuade: Research essay 30%
- Writing in the World: Public Project 15%
- Public Project Presentation 5%

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan	10 M	Introduction	
	12 W	Rodriguez, "You Shouldn't Write off English Majors" & Berman, "English Majors," & Meyers, "Feeding Majors" (D2L)	
	14 F	Tirado, Intro, Chaps. 1-2	Letter to the Editor assigned
	17 M	MLK, Jr. Day – NO CLASS	
	19 W	Tirado, Chaps. 3-5	
	21 F	Tirado, Chap. 6 and Ezra Klein article (D2L)	
	24 M	Tirado, Chaps. 7-9	Letter to Editor due, Blog Post Assigned
	26 W	Tirado, Chaps. 10, Afterword	
	28 F	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 1-50	
	31 M	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 51-150,	
Feb.	2 W	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 151-200	
	4 F	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 201-250	Blog Post due
	7 M	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp.250-350	Researched Creative Essay assigned
	9 W	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 350-386	
	11 F	Lincoln's Birthday - NO CLASS	
	14 M	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 386-end	

16 W Margaret Atwood article, (D2L) and discussion of Creative Essay Assignment
18 F McGhee, Chaps. 1

21 M McGhee, Chap. 2-3
23 W McGhee, Chaps 4
25 F McGhee, Chap. 5 **Creative Essay draft due to discussion board**

28 M McGhee, Chap. 6-7 **Online Creative Essay peer review due**
March 2 W Metzl, *Dying of Whiteness* (D2L)
4 F McGhee, Chaps. 8 **Creative Essay due**

7 M **Research Essay Assigned – database discussion**
9 W McGhee, Chap. 9-10
11 F Video: Between the World and Me

SPRING BREAK

21 M Maus I
23 W Maus I
25 F Maus I

28 M Maus II
30 W Maus II
April 1 F Maus II

4 M *Writer/Designer*, Chaps. 1-4
6 W **ENGLISH STUDIES CONFERENCE-No class but attendance at conference required**
8 F *Writer/Designer*, Chap. 5-end **Public Project Assigned**

11 M Individual Conferences **Research Essay drafts due to Discussion Board**
13 W Individual Conferences
15 F **Research Essay Online Peer Review due**

18 M **In-class Public Project Workshop**
20 W **In-class Public Project Workshop**
22 F **Research Essay due**

25 M **Public Project Presentations**
27 W **Public Project Presentations**
29 F **Public Project Presentations**

Wed. May 4 12:30-2:30 exam period **Public Projects due**