

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 1001-031: Composition and Language

Ray Watkins
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2005



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Watkins, Ray, "ENG 1001-031: Composition and Language" (2005). *Fall 2005*. 29.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2005/29

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

[home](#) [courses](#) [academic](#) [profession](#) [vita](#)

[c](#)



[syllabus](#) [policies](#) [writing assignments](#) [websites](#)

Freshman Composition Policy Statement

English 1001G, Section 23
 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12 to 12:50
 Coleman Hall 3120, Computer Room (CR) and 3130, Lecture Room (LR)
 Instructor: **Dr. Ray Watkins**
 Office: Coleman Hall 3010/309K
 Office Hours: 9 to 10 M, W, and F or by appointment
 Email address: jrwatkins@eiu.edu
 Website: www.writinginthewild.com
 Office Phone: 217-581-5214

Text: *Here's How to Write Well*, McMahan, Funk

Goals: English 1001G will enhance your understanding of academic research, argumentation, and writing and give you improve your skills in the following areas:

1. Critical reading -- improve your ability to read critically, to question, and to evaluate what you read. In order to be a reader in what you are reading, actively deciphering ideas and concepts rather than passively receiving strings of words. You must know what you read and then to evaluate the claims and assumptions on which the argument is based. Although you will have different opinions frequently in this class, the process of analysis we are going to be learning is more complex and subtle than simple opinions. Writing is less about opinions as such and more about "reasoned arguments." Knowing the difference is key to success.
2. Using research -- improve your knowledge of how libraries work and how to use them. You want to familiarize yourself with materials, on-line catalogues, periodical indexes, electronic databases, and librarians) as well as with online information. You want to know how to find and evaluate and then use good information. In addition to learning how to find information, you must know how to use it. You can begin this process by visiting the E.I.U. Booth Library Web site, and familiarizing yourself with their services. You cannot make use of an article or essay if you cannot summarize its basic argument. Therefore, using research means finding materials, and knowing how to read them and incorporate them into your own writing. This includes knowledge of appropriate documentation styles, as well. There are several of these standardized document styles.
3. Collaborative learning -- improve your ability to learn from and to teach others about your own thinking and about the writing process. You want to learn how to offer honest, thorough, and constructive critiques of your own writing, and how to make use of what you have learned.
4. Constructing arguments -- improve your ability to construct your own arguments. This skill depends on your mastery of the English language. The better writer you can be. Again, one of our aims is to learn to distinguish between "opinion" and a "reasoned argument." You must be able to use texts, evidence, and so on.
5. Clean, smart prose -- improve your ability to write clear and meaningful sentences, to compose organized and direct paragraphs, and to address recurring grammatical or mechanical problems specific to your own writing (these vary from writer to writer). Writing so-called grammatical prose is so important to your success in college and in life.

Writing Assignments: Over the course of the semester you will be required to write a series of three papers (varying in length and progresses) and to submit rough drafts and final versions for each-- due dates are listed below and on the syllabus. In addition, you are free to review all online course materials at your leisure. All assignments will be turned in to me via email; I will not accept paper.

You will be asked to do a peer critique for all three first drafts of the major writing assignments (see below) and three, your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and that identifies your future goals. For your own peace of mind always use a separate piece of paper-- of all essays and written assignments turned in for comment.

Finally, as the semester progresses you will be building a web-site portfolio of your work which will be evaluated at the end of one part of your final grade, see below for details. Consider this portfolio your fourth paper. Please be aware that you must participate in this course. That account comes with web space, which you will also use.

You will be responsible for commenting on the work of your classmates and helping them with revisions of drafts. Peer

class, and in writing as homework. If you are absent on the day we begin peer critiques, or the next class day you are responsible for making sure the critique is written and delivered to me and to the writer. I will not comment on a critique written late without proper explanation.

Other Course Requirements: You are required to attend class and to participate in all in-class work and discussion. It is a continuous process from the first week of class until the last, and not as a series of discrete or separate events. Each class session, in other words, your goal is to learn to write and to rewrite as a part of your daily routine, proceeding step by step.

Similarly, your goal as a reader is to learn to do your reading in small, manageable pieces on a daily basis, rather than in large workshops, which by definition cannot be repeated. Periodically throughout the semester you will be responsible for writing, which will be counted as a part of your class engagement and attendance points.

Attendance : Missed classes will necessarily be reflected in the quality of your writing and in the calculation of your grade. Lowering of your attendance points; six unexcused absences will fail you in the course. There will be two required individual assignments that will cost you 1/2 of a grade in engagement / attendance.

Late or Missed Work : As previously stated, you are responsible for delivery of all late critiques, drafts and final papers. The ongoing process of critique and revision, missed assignments can only adversely-- and seriously-- affect your final grade in class or for missed writing workshops.

Grades: Final grades will be determined using the following formula:

Paper 1, Average of Draft One and Two 15%
Paper 2, Average of Draft One and Two 15%
Paper 3, Average of Draft One and Two 15%
Average of Three Peer Critiques 10%
Average of Three Self-Commentaries 10%
Average of Website Midterm and Final 15%
Attendance / Engagement 20%

Scholastic Responsibility: Turning in work that is not your own or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will result in a possible failure in the course. If you have any questions about the use of source material see me before class. The discovery of plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Plagiarism may result in indefinite suspension from the university. If you have an issue, please talk or email me, or speak to your advisor or another professor. You can also read more (from the University Writing Center website).

Teacher Comments: In my written comments on your work, I will do my best to give you useful responses, to help you improve your writing, or grammar and mechanics, word choice and style, etc. It is your responsibility to read my comments, however, and use them to improve your writing. I will not correct grammar for you or point out every possible technical error; I will correct the first or most obvious instances I see of grammatical errors and expect you to learn the problem and work to correct it.

One of your main tasks this semester is to learn how to identify areas in which you feel you need improvement, and to apply that to your writing. To that end, I recommend that you quickly familiarize yourself with the services of the E.I.U. Undergraduate Writing Center. The Writing Center is not about trying to learn things that you should have learned in High School; the Writing Center is about providing you with the sorts of assistance successful writers rely on. They won't edit your work for you, of course, but they will help you improve it.

Complaints: Bring any questions you have about grades or policies to me first. Complaints we cannot resolve should be brought to the appropriate official.

home courses academic profession vita

ca



syllabus policies writing assignments websites

Syllabus: English 1001-23, Fall 2004

Paper 1: Weeks 1 to 5

Paper 2: Weeks 6 to 10

Paper 3: Weeks 11 to 16

Paper 1: *Encounters with Books*

Week 1: CH3120, Computer Room, August 22-26

M Introduction to the Course / Attendance Check In

Homework: Locate <http://www.writinginthewild.com>

Read on Course page **Self-Commentaries** (the first one is due September 2), **Paper 1: Encounters With Books** (draft **Policies**). Activate your EIU e-mail account, locate your website, review other online course materials.

W Introductions to Each Other / Self-Commentary Brainstorm

Homework : Bring your official EIU account information, review assignments, etc.

F Technology Discussion / Self-Commentary Brainstorm

Homework: Read, in *Here's How to Write Well* (**HHWW**), Chapter 1, "The Planning Process."

Week 2: CH3130, Lecture Room, August 29 to September 2

M Planning Paper 1 / Introduction to the Annotated Bibliography / Self-Commentary and Planning / Writing Skills Focus

Homework: Read, in *Here's How to Write Well* (**HHWW**), Chapter 2, "Addressing Your Readers."

W Writing Workshop: Audiences for Paper 1 / Self-Commentary and Audiences

Homework: Read, in *Here's How to Write Well* (**HHWW**), Chapter 3, "Useful Strategies for Developing Ideas."

F Writing Workshop: Ideas for Paper 1

Self-Commentary One Due September 2 by Email

Week 3: CH3120, Computer Room, September 5-9

M No Class Labor Day

W Technology Workshop: Word Processing / Email Etiquette and Attachments, etc.

F Technology Workshop: Word Processing / Email Etiquette and Attachments, etc.

September 9, Draft 1, Paper 1, due via Email

Homework: Read, in **HHWW**, Chapter 11, "Reviewing the Basics of Grammar"

Week 4: CH3130, Lecture Room, September 12-16

M Writing Workshop / Grammar / Peer Critiques / Writing Skills Focus

Homework: Read, in **HHWW**, Chapter 4, "Composing Effective Paragraphs"

W Writing Workshop / Paragraphs / Peer Critiques

Homework: Read, in **HHWW**, Chapter 5, "Polishing Your Sentences"

F Writing Workshop / Sentences / Peer Critiques

Week 5: CH3120, Computer Room, September 19-23

M Technology Workshop: Starting Your Website

September 19, Peer Critique, Paper 1 Due

W Technology Workshop: Starting Your Website

F Technology Workshop: Starting Your Website

Homework : Paper 1, Final Draft Due Monday, September 26

Back to Top

Paper 2: Family Literacy

Week 6: CH3130, Lecture Room, September 26 to 30

M Introduction to Paper 2: Family Literacy / Writing Skills Focus / Interviews

Homework: HHWW, Chapter 7

September 26, Paper 1, Final Draft Due

W Writing Workshop: Critical Thinking

Homework: HHWW, Chapter 15

F Writing Workshop: Troublesome Words and Phrases

Week 7: CH3120, Computer Room, October 3-7

M Technology Workshop: Posting Your Work on the Web

W Technology Workshop: Posting Your Work on the Web / Conference Schedule

F **No Class: Fall Break**

Week 8: CH3130, Lecture Room, October 10-14

M Conferences

W Conferences

F Conferences

Homework: HHWW, Chapter 6

Week 9, CH3120, Computer Room, October 17-21

M **Writing Workshop: Revising and Editing**

October 17, Draft 1, Paper 2 Due by Email.

W Technology Workshop: Organizing and Polishing Your Website

F Technology Workshop: Organizing and Polishing Your Website

Homework: HHWW , Chapter 12

Week 10: CH3130, Lecture Room, October 24-28

M Writing Workshop: Punctuation

October 24, Paper 2 Peer Critique Due by Email.

Homework: HHWW , Chapter 13

W Writing Workshop: Verbs

Homework: HHWW , Chapter 14

F Writing Workshop: Pronouns and Modifiers

Homework: HHWW , Chapter 8

[Back to Top](#)

Paper 3: The Facts of Class

Week 11: CH3120, Computer Room, October 31 to November 4

M Introduction to Paper 3: The Facts of Class / On and Off Line Research / Writing Skills Focus

October 31, Final Draft, Paper 2 Due by Email

W Open Technology Day / Prepare for Midterm Website Grade

F Open Technology Day/ Prepare for Midterm Website Grade

November 4, Midterm Website Due

Homework: HHWW , Chapter 9

Week 12: CH3130, Lecture Room, November 7-11

M Writing Workshop: Using Sources

W Writing Workshop: Using Sources

Homework: HHWW, Chapter 10

F Writing Workshop: Documenting Sources / Conference Schedule

November 11, Midterm Self-Commentary Due by Email

Week 13: CH3120, Computer Room, November 14-18

M Conferences

W Conferences

F Conferences

November 18, Draft 1, Paper 3 Due by Email

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break, November 21-25

Week 15: CH3130, Lecture Room, November 28-December 2

M Writing Workshop: To Be Announced

W Writing Workshop: To Be Announced

F Writing Workshop: To Be Announced

December 2, Paper 3, Peer Critique Due by Email

Week 16: CH3120, Computer Room, December 5-9

M Open Technology Day / Prepare for Final Website Grade

W Open Technology Day / Prepare for Final Website Grade

F Open Technology Day / Prepare for Final Website Grade

December 9, Final Draft Paper 3 Due
Final Web Site and Concluding Self-Commentary due Wednesday, December 14, Noon

[Back to Top](#)