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ENG 1001G-043-057-060: Composition and Language

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Syllabus: English 1001G

Fall Semester, 2002

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Catalog Description of Course

A course in the reading and writing of expressive, expository, and persuasive essays. 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.

Books & Materials

The handbook you received from the Textbook Library.

Attendance

Attendance is required. I will reduce your course grade if attendance becomes a problem, on the following scale: three unexcused absences— one letter grade; five unexcused absences— two letter grades; more than six unexcused absences— no credit. Work can be made up for excused absences only. Absences will be excused for "emergencies" and "illness" (the language from the EIU Catalog). "Emergencies" are limited to: attending the funerals of family members (published obituary or funeral home service memorial required for proof). "Illness" must be supported by a medical professional's written assessment that you could not attend class—not just the "Walk-Out Sheet" from the Health Center.

Late Work

I will not accept late work, unless we have made a previous arrangement.

Plagiarism

I won't tolerate plagiarism.

Games, Surfing, Etc.

I will expect you to use class time for working on assignments or, if we're discussing something, for paying attention and taking notes. If you're not able to handle this, I will ask you to leave. If the problem persists, I'll reduce your grade. Any idiot who pops up dirty pictures on the screen in our classroom gets an F for the course. Not fair? Too strict? Not within my prerogatives? I'll let you process the grade appeal. In the meantime, my tolerance for sexual harassment is zero.

Papers in HTML

All written assignments must be produced in Hypertext Mark-Up Language (HTML), as Web pages. Don't worry; it's easy—easier than, say, Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Now that you're totally freaked, let me add this little morsel: I will not teach you, in class, how to make Web pages. However, I have prepared extensive online resources to help you learn on your own. You will be surprised at how easy it is. But this is a writing course, not a Web page design course; your grade will not suffer if you never figure out how to make a Web page. I will, however, not accept your work in printed format until I am satisfied that you have given making Web pages the old college try, seeking help from others and from me.

Public Writing

Almost all of the writing you do for this course will be public. It will be published where I, your classmates, your parents, your ex-boyfriend, and anyone using the Internet can read it. My experience teaching writing leads me to believe that having such a public audience substantially helps learning writers. If you think having a real-world audience for your
writing may be a problem for you, please contact me VERY, VERY EARLY IN THE SEMESTER so that one of the following can happen: 1) We talk and I convince you to go through with it; 2) We work out arrangements by which you can avoid having a public audience for your writing; or 3) I help you navigate our department's processes so that you can switch to another section.

Computer Access

Computer access is, of course, a huge social justice issue. But it isn't an issue for you in terms of getting your work done for this course. If you think it is, please see me very early in the semester and I will convince you that it isn't—or you will convince me that it is (which has happened once in the past seven years).

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please notify me and contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

E-Mail

You are welcome to send me e-mail. Since I receive so much e-mail, however, you are required to put your full name and an appropriate subject phrase in the message's subject line. Otherwise, I might not read your message.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the 100 points below. 90 to 100 points will receive an A, 80 to 89 will receive a B, 70 to 79 will receive a C, and 0 to 69 will receive an NC (No Credit).

- Homepage: 10 points
- Paper One: 20 points
- Revision of Paper One: 10 points
- Paper Two: 30 points
- Paper Three: 30 points

The details of these assignments will be posted online and discussed in class.

Grading of Written Material

I will follow the grading standards suggested by Eastern's English Department, which I will provide you with. You will notice that the various categories are pretty explicitly detailed, but that the way a teacher weighs each category is left up for grabs. Here is how I will approach weighing the categories:

A "C," "D," or "F" in any of the individual categories will conquer the grade for the entire paper; for example, if you have a "C" for mechanics, your paper will get a "C," no matter how good its organization, development, and so on.

I will ignore the "Focus/Meeting the Assignment" grade for all written assignments. Meeting the assignment, it seems to me, is not something to grade; either 1) you did the assignment, 2) you didn't, or 3) you didn't understand the assignment (or I didn't communicate clearly) and did something else. The only one of these that's worth discussing is #3; in this case we will need to talk, and you will need to create something that becomes a #1. As far as "Focus" is concerned, it is clearly very important to your writing—but belongs under "Organization" and "Development." Your paper's ability to focus (rather than ramble aimlessly, for example) will be graded under the other categories.

I will weigh "Process, Organization," "Style / Awareness of Audience," and "Development" more heavily than "Mechanics." This is not to say I will not weigh mechanics at all (see the first paragraph of this section!).