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ENG 1001G-034: Composition And Language

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English 1001G (sec. 34): Composition and Language

Dr. Robert Martinez

Office: Coleman 3371

Office Hours: Mondays, 5-6 PM; Wednesdays 12-1 PM; Fridays, 2-4 PM; and by appt.

Course Time: MWF 1-1.50 PM, Coleman 3170

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*for questions only; do not e-mail assignments without my permission

Required Texts

- *The Norton Reader, Shorter 12th Edition*, ed. Peterson and Brereton (NR)
- *They Say/I Say*, Graff and Birkenstein (TSIS)
- A college dictionary
- A notebook
- Pocket folder
- *A Pocket Style Manual*, Diana Hacker
- Others readings to be assigned and handed out in class

Course Description

The goal of this course is to help you to become an effective writer of expository and persuasive prose and to sharpen your writing and editing skills more generally. This course will teach you how to develop your ability to analyze and construct arguments, to read critically, to express yourself with clarity, to conduct research, and to edit and trouble shoot your writing and that of your peers. These skills are crucial to your success not only at EIU but also in the professional world that awaits you.

Office Hours and Resources

I am dedicated to helping you succeed in this course and at EIU. I will hold weekly office hours and will be available by appointment, should office hours not meet your needs during a given time. Please be aware that *I do not conduct office hours over e-mail*, unless I have made a special arrangement with you. Please do not wait until the last minute before an assignment is due to schedule a hasty meeting, and do not e-mail me your work.

Here are some other important resources available to you.

1. **EIU Writing Center, Coleman Hall 3110:** <http://castle.eiu.edu/writing/index.php>
2. **Booth Library's "Ask a Librarian":** <http://www.library.eiu.edu/requests/asklibr.html>
3. **EIU Student Success Center:** <http://www.eiu.edu/success/>
4. **EIU Counseling Center:** <http://www.eiu.edu/counscctr/>
5. **EIU Student Medical Clinic:** <https://secure.health.eiu.edu/portal>
6. **EIU Disability Services:** <http://www.eiu.edu/~disablt>

Classroom Expectations

The guiding principle of this course is **group work**. You will be spending much of your time working in groups with your classmates to revise each other's work and to get down into the mechanics of solid writing—the organization of ideas, the structure of sentences, the methods of argumentation, and much more. By exchanging peer criticism with each other, you will learn the importance of revision in the writing process and, through your evaluation of others' writing, you

will learn how to look at your own writing with a more critical eye. You will ideally discover more about yourself as a writer, and you will learn to become a confident participant in the professional community you choose to enter later in your university career.

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**. Group work is a key feature of English 1001G, and your success in the class (as well as your classmates' success) depends upon active participation and attendance. Regardless of any absences, you will be held responsible for all work assigned.

Absence penalties. Starting with your fourth (4th) absences from class, I will lower your grade by a + or -, and your grade will continue to suffer this deduction for each absence you accumulated thereafter. (For example, your fourth absence would make a B+ go to a B; your fifth absence would automatically drop your B to a B-, and a sixth absence would quickly move you to a C+.) Ten (10) or more absences will most likely result in a failing grade. Please do NOT interpret this rule to mean that you have any “free” classes to skip.

Arriving late to class or being unprepared will also affect your grade negatively. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class, I will consider you absent. If you come to class *without a draft of your assignment or without assigned homework*, you may be considered absent. Be on time and be prepared—this is a lesson that will serve you well in whatever profession or field you choose to pursue in life.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is absolutely **unacceptable**. Plagiarism is the presentation of another's words or ideas as your own. Usually plagiarism is intentional, but it can also occur when one fails to cite a source correctly. It violates the EIU honor system and robs the original author of due credit. As a student at Eastern Illinois University, you are responsible for abiding by the EIU Student Conduct Code (<http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial/studentconductcode.php#s1>). Should I determine that you have committed plagiarism in an assignment, I will not hesitate to penalize your work and to direct the case to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Assignments and Grading

There are three (3) units that we will cover in this course, each requiring a variety of exercises, drafts, and a final essay. Assignments will be discussed thoroughly as we delve into each unit over the course of the semester. Letter grades will be assigned, and the grading breakdown runs thus:

Unit/Essay I:	20%
Unit/Essay II:	20%
Unit/Essay III:	30%
*Participation (discussion, in-class writing/drafting, quizzes):	30%

All unit essays will involve pre-writing/drafting exercises and editing/revision exercises. Essays handed in *without proof of drafting or prewriting will be penalized*.

Tentative Course Schedule – English 1001G, Fall 2011

Please note: The activities and/or readings detailed below are subject to change depending on class progress.

Date	What We'll Do in Class	Homework
Mon., 8/22	Introduction to the course and class conduct.	
Wed., 8/24	In-class essay assignment.	Read William Zinsser's "Business Writing: Writing in Your Job" (class handout) for Friday.
Fri., 8/26	Discuss Zinsser. Correspondence / writing audience exercises and discussion. Assign groups.	Read David Buetow's "Teaching a Bad Dog New Tricks" for Monday. In your reading notebook, write response (questions to be given in class).
Mon., 8/29	Define focus of Unit I: Expository Essay on the Self. Discuss Buetow's essay.	Read essays by Howard White ("The Power of Hello"), Eboo Patel ("We Are Each Other's Business"), and Elvia Bautista ("Remember All the Boys"), to be handed out in class.
Wed., 8/31	Group analysis and discussion of White, Patel, and Bautista essays. Bring your essays to class!	Start making a list of personal experiences that are important to you. Bring this list to class on Friday.
Fri., 9/2	Writing about experiences. Group sharing/class discussion.	Read Joan Didion's essays "Goodbye to All That" and "In Bed" (to be handed out in class). Write a response in your reading notebook.
Mon., 9/5	Labor Day – No Class	
Wed., 9/7	Exploring yourself through place: Discuss Didion's essays. Bring essays and reading notebook to class!	Read Didion's "On Going Home" in <i>The Norton Reader</i> (pp. 1-3) and Thomas Sanchez's "The Difficulty of Saying My Name" (class handout). Write response in your reading notebook.
Fri., 9/9	Discuss Didion and Sanchez essays. Bring essays/ <i>Norton Reader</i> to class along with reading notebook!	Begin drafting your Unit 1 essay.
Mon., 9/12	Bring rough draft of your essay to class (typed). Class discussion.	Read William Zinsser's short essays, "Simplicity" and "Clutter" (to be handed out in class).
Wed., 9/14	Groupwork: apply Zinsser's principles to in-class readings. Practice editing!	Apply Zinsser's principles to your Unit 1 essay draft and make revisions. Bring a fresh copy of your Unit 1 essay draft to class on

		Friday.
Fri., 9/16	Group editing work on your Unit 1 essay draft. Trouble shooting for clutter, creating simple prose. Sign up for conference.	Make any necessary revisions to your essay 1 draft and bring two copies to your conference meeting.
Mon., 9/19	Conferences: bring two copies of your revised draft to your conference meeting.	
Wed., 9/21	Conferences: bring two copies of your revised draft to your conference meeting.	Make further revisions to your Unit 1 essay and bring a new copy (typed) to class on Friday.
Fri., 9/23	Final Group editing day: exchange drafts and critique essays in class.	Make final revisions to your Unit 1 essay! Place your final draft <i>and</i> rough drafts of your essay into a pocketed folder.
Mon., 9/26	Unit 1 essay folder <i>and</i> reading notebooks due in class! Begin Unit 2: Socio-cultural Problems	