

Fall 8-15-2003

ENG 1001G-051: Composition and Language

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Eastern Illinois University

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12:15-1:45 pm, and by appointment

Syllabus for Composition and Language, English 1001G, Section 051
Fall 2003, Coleman Hall 3170, MW 3:00-4:15

Required Texts

American Voices: Culture and Community, 5th ed.

The Blair Handbook, 4th ed.

additional readings provided by the instructor, by handout or through e-reserve

Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to introduce you to interpretation, argument, and research at the college level. You will be asked to do numerous types of reading and writing, and to collaborate with your peers on assignments, including an oral presentation. Ideally, you will become a more perceptive reader, a more capable writer, and a more engaging thinker. Your papers should express ideas in clear and stylistically effective sentences and paragraphs, and show adequate development, especially in the areas organization and critical thinking. By the end of the semester, you should be able to evaluate and document sources.

Writing Centered Course

Students should submit a paper from this class to the Electronic Writing Portfolio. Visit this web address for more information: http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/electronic_writing_portfolio1.htm

Overview of Assignments

Reflecting on Difference: meditation on a personal experience involving your or someone else's difference from a group

Interpretation: close, expository reading of a short song or poem of your choice

Group Analysis: collaborative analysis of an advertisement for a product, service, film, video game, television show, etc.

Film or Television Review: your critical "take" on a film or television show

Document and Site Search: evaluation of two internet sources addressing the same issue

Cultural Analysis: investigate a cultural event (i.e., the Columbine shootings) or a cultural practice (i.e., video game playing) and make an argument about an issue related to it

Peer Reviews: critical response to a peer's paper; your peer reviews should be honest and descriptive, explaining in detail your reading experiences

Participation: active engagement with course materials (for instance, being able to discuss the readings or to comment on them in informal, in-class writings); satisfactory completion of all daily assignments; contributions to class or small group discussions

Course Policies

Attendance: If you are absent from class, ask a classmate what happened and ask me for any missed handouts. Your final grade will be lowered one letter for each unexcused absence above four (for instance, upon your fifth absence, an "A" will become a "B"). If you accumulate seven unexcused absences, you will not pass the course. Absences will be excused only in the case of a documented illness or emergency, or of documented participation in an official University activity. You must provide me with a photocopy of your documentation. Please do not come to class late. Every third instance of tardiness will count as an absence.

Assignments: Papers and assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified in the course schedule. For major papers, you will write a draft and a graded revision. **Format:** All drafts, final drafts, and formal assignments should be typed or word-processed using a standard (12 pt.) font that yields approximately 250 words per page. Use one inch margins and double-

space all text, including your name, the date, the title, and the bibliography. Use headers to place your last name and the page number at the top right-hand corner of each page. All assignments should be bound at the top, left-hand corner by a paperclip or a staple.

Late work: late work will be accepted without penalty only in the case of properly documented absences. Failing to complete a draft on a "Draft Due" date will cause you to miss the scheduled peer review. You will not only miss a graded activity but also lose the chance to receive a peer's valuable response to your paper. Late final drafts will be marked down a letter grade for every day that they are late.

Participation and daily assignments: Please come to class prepared; be attentive; try to contribute to class discussions; and make a solid effort on daily and weighted daily assignments. Daily assignments are various forms of in-class writing including brainstorming, clustering, group work reports, etc. that will partly determine your participation grade. Daily assignments will not be given letter grades but a "check plus" (excellent), a "check" (good or satisfactory), or a "check minus" (unsatisfactory). Work on daily assignments will be considered holistically when your participation grade is calculated at the end of the semester. If your final grade for the class hovers between two grades, the quality of your daily assignments will be a determining factor in whether you get the higher or the lower grade. Weighted daily assignments, which require work outside of class, are noted on the schedule. If you fail to turn in or complete a weighted daily assignment, you may, in each instance, lose as many as two percentage points from your overall participation grade.

Should our discussions flounder, quizzes on the reading may be given, or additional in- and out-of-class writing assigned.

Grading Scale: 100 to 90 = A, 89 to 80 = B, 79 to 70 = C, 69 and below NC

Grading Percentages:	Reflecting on Difference	10%
	Interpretation	15%
	Group Analysis	10%
	Film or Television Review	15%
	Document and Site Search	10%
	Four Peer Reviews	10%
	(average of four 10 point reviews; for instance, $40 \div 4 = 10$)	
	Cultural Analysis	20%
	Participation	10%

Assessment: For each of the assignments listed immediately above (excluding Participation), you will receive a detailed assignment sheet. Your grade for a given assignment will be determined by how well your work fulfills the criteria stated in the assignment sheet.

Academic Dishonesty: According to the *MLA Style Manual*, the word plagiarism has its origin in the Latin term for "kidnapper": plagiarists kidnap other writers' sentences, words, or ideas and present them as their own. Plagiarism sometimes occurs as a result of poor documentation or careless note taking. Always cite paraphrased or quoted material. Deliberate acts of plagiarism include downloading a paper from the internet; cutting and pasting passages from electronic sources into your paper without citing them; submitting a paper written by another student as your own; etc. A student caught plagiarizing will, at very least, receive a failing grade on the assignment in question. Plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the course. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office.

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

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Provisional Schedule

Note: Please complete each reading or assignment *before* class on the day it is listed. Additional readings from the *Blair Handbook* will be assigned as needed. Bring your *Blair* text every meeting.

Week One

M Aug 25 Introduction to course and policies
W Aug 27 Webster, "Stamps" (*American Voices*, hereafter AV 243); writing diagnostic

Week Two

M Sept 1 No class; Labor Day
W Sept 3 Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (AV 275)
Joseph, "On Being White" (AV 65)
Reflecting on Difference, assignment and prewriting
Reflecting on experience (*Blair* 77-92)

Week Three

M Sept 8 Keillor, "Born among the Born-Again" (AV 35)
Crow Dog, "Lakota Woman" (AV 45)
W Sept 10 Draft Due: Reflecting on Difference; peer review

Week Four

M Sept 15 Due: Reflecting on Difference
Analytical reading exercise: Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays" (provided by instructor)
Interpretation, assignment and prewriting
Interpreting texts (*Blair* 138-148)
W Sept 17 Popular Songs, TBA (provided by instructor)

Week Five

M Sept 22 Draft Due: Interpretation; peer review
Note: attach a copy of your chosen song or poem to your paper
W Sept 24 Writing Workshop: Grammar and Style, Interpretation

Week Six

M Sept 29 Due: Interpretation
Analysis Exercise: Magazine Advertisements
Collaborative Analysis, assignment and creation of groups
W Oct 1 Fazzone, "Game Over" (AV 387)
Workshop; bring a commercial image (advertisement for a product, service, film, video game, television show, etc.) to discuss with the rest of your group; image selection (**Weighted Daily Assignment**)

Week Seven

M Oct 6 Sullivan, "Violence as Fun" (AV 677)
W Oct 8 Group analysis of image; construction of presentation

Week Eight

M Oct 13 Due: Panel Presentations
W Oct 15 Due: Panel Presentations

Week Nine

M Oct 20 Heaton and Wilson, "Talk TV: Tuning in to Trouble" (AV 397)
De Stefano, "Ungood Fellas and the Godfather Culture" (AV 391)
Discuss Audience, Stereotypes
Film or Television Review, assignment
W Oct 22 Review of "The O.C." (provided by instructor)
Review of *Pirates of the Caribbean* (provided by instructor)

Week Ten

M Oct 27 Draft Due: Film or Television Review; peer review

W Oct 29	Writing Workshop: Grammar and Style, Vocabulary, Conclusions
<u>Week Eleven</u>	
M Nov 3	Due: Film or Television Review Cultural Analysis, assignment and prewriting Elements of argument; finding an issue (<i>Blair</i> 110-114) Conniff, "The Joy of Women's Sports" (AV 334)
W Nov 5	Due: Proposal for Cultural Analysis (Weighted Daily Assignment) Group Review of Proposal Conducting internet research (<i>Blair</i> 195-202) Evaluating electronic sources (<i>Blair</i> 217-223) Document and Site Search, special assignment
<u>Week Twelve</u>	
M Nov 10	Hasselstrom, "A Peaceful Woman Explains Why She Carries A Gun" (AV 557) Barbash, "Beyond the Finger Pointing" (AV 581) Analyzing an issue (<i>Blair</i> 115)
W Nov 12	Due: Document and Site Search Results Conducting Library Research (<i>Blair</i> 172-94) Evaluating Library Sources (<i>Blair</i> 213-16)
<u>Week Thirteen</u>	
M Nov 17	Library Research
W Nov 19	In-Class Workshop: Thinking Critically about Sources (Weighted Daily Assignment) Bring your sources to class with you Using sources (<i>Blair</i> 228-244)
<u>Week Fourteen</u>	
M Nov 24, W Nov 26	Fall Recess; no classes
<u>Week Fifteen</u>	
M Dec 1	Draft Due: Cultural Analysis, peer review
W Dec 3	Mandatory Individual Conferences (also on Thursday and Friday; your choice)
<u>Week Sixteen</u>	
M Dec 8	Last Chance Conferences
W Dec 10	Due: Cultural Analysis