

Fall 8-15-2007

ENG 1001G-053: Composition and Language

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1001G-053

English 1001G--Composition & Language
Fall 2007
sec 053 3:30-4:45 T & Th CH2120

Kathy Olsen
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*office hours: MWF 8:30-9 a.m. & 10-10:40a.m.; T & Th 3-3:30 p.m. or by
appointment*

texts:

The Blair Handbook

The Norton Reader

Writing Analytically

Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 1001G is a writing-centered course in which you will write as well as read expressive, expository, and argumentative essays of varying length. The reading and writing will take place both in and outside of class. During the semester we'll focus on learning how to organize, articulate, and develop your thoughts clearly and effectively. Additionally, you will write several papers that will involve use and documentation of outside sources, and you'll also do some collaborative writing.

There will be quizzes given on the reading material. The frequency of these quizzes can, in part, be controlled by you. If, through discussion, writing assignments, etc., it appears that you are reading and thinking about the assigned material, the number of quizzes will decrease. Slack off on the reading, however, and back come the quizzes....

GRADING:

I. NOTE: To pass English 1001G, you must have a grade of A, B, or C at the end of the semester. Anything below constitutes a mark of "NC" ("no credit") and will result in you having to retake the course.

NOTE: An "NC" is not factored into your semester or cumulative GPA. For example, an "A" would count as a 4.0, a "B" as a 3.0, and so on, but an NC would simply show that you took the class but did not pass/did not receive credit.

II. In my class the final grade will be determined like this:

20% on quizzes, short homework and in-class writing assignments

10% on class participation

70% on essays (the first week's diagnostic essay is not graded. The first three essays are worth 10% each. The research paper is worth 20%, as is the final argument essay)

III. You will have the option of revising ONE of your first three essays. I will average the grade from the original with the grade on the revision. This new grade will replace the original or first grade. (e.g. if on Essay # 3 you first receive a C, and on the revision you get an A, the final grade for Essay # 3 is a B.)

IV. I use the Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments in EIU's English Dept., a copy of which will be given to you. We will review and discuss these standards before your first graded essay is due, as well as throughout the semester.

V. You **MUST** turn in a research paper in order to be considered for a passing or a failing grade. Please understand that **simply turning in a research paper does not guarantee a passing grade**. Failure to turn in a research paper will automatically result in a grade of NC for the semester.

VI. If you fail to turn in one of the non-research essays and do not have a legitimate excuse, the grade for that assignment will consist of two F's instead of one; I don't think it's fair to give equal grades to someone who at least attempted the assignment but may have had problems, and someone who didn't even bother to make the effort.

ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK

Attendance and participation are very important; this is not strictly a lecture class. I expect you to be prepared to discuss and question the material covered in class and in your writing and reading. If you are unable to attend class due to illness or other legitimate excuse (e.g. a true emergency, unsafe travel condition for commuters--not those walking from the dorms!--or participation in a recognized University-sponsored activity for which I have been notified in advance), **it is your responsibility to contact me about make-up work**. If you are ill or an emergency arises and you have to leave town, you must contact me ASAP so that I am aware of the situation. (This is something you should also do with your other instructors.) If you miss several consecutive classes and I don't hear from you, I have to assume that a) you have fallen off the face of the earth and therefore will receive a failing grade, or b) that you have dropped the class.

In most cases work cannot be made up in situations such as this. It is not realistic to assume that you can miss three, four, five classes in a row with no excused absence and/or contact and still pass the class. **I will accept late work (homework and essays) only if you have an excused absence**--that is, a legitimate illness or situations such as the aforementioned.

Repeated failure to bring appropriate material (e.g. correct textbook, essay draft, etc.) and/or habitual tardiness will get you dismissed from that day's class.

I do give you the option of turning in ONE non-research essay of your choice one class day late. For example, if the essay is due on Tuesday I will accept it at the start of class on Thursday but no later. **Unless prior arrangements have been made, you must be in class to turn in the paper—no sliding it into my mailbox or office. Other than this one instance, I will not accept late work unless you have an excused absence.** Quizzes are given at the start of class, so be on time, as these cannot be made up unless you have the excused absence.

Please note that oversleeping and rides going home for the weekend are NOT excused absences!

CELL PHONES

Make sure cell phones are turned off while you're in class. No texting, checking messages, etc. during class.

If you need me to return your phone call, please do not leave a long-distance cell phone number. **I cannot make long-distance calls from my office.** Instead, leave me a dorm room number (581-xxxx), an email address, or speak to me during class or office times.

CONFERENCES

Twice this semester there will be mandatory individual conferences during which we'll discuss your writing, progress, grade, etc. They will be held near midterm time and during work on the research paper. We will not meet for class on conference days.

NOTE: I encourage you to schedule an appointment or just stop by my office throughout the semester if you have questions or difficulties with an assignment. I can usually meet at times other than my "official" office hours.

ESSAYS

Essays are to be done on computer. Final versions must be printed out. Papers need to be double-spaced with one-inch margins. Include name, essay number, date, and a creative title. You also will need to include additional material such as peer editing sheets and purpose/description page. (These will be discussed in class before you begin your first essay.) **Essays are due at the beginning of class.**

EIU POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--'the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work'--has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources."

FINAL EXAM

No final exam in English 1001! We will not meet for class during finals week!

ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO

As an EIU graduation requirement, you are required to submit one essay per year to the electronic writing portfolio. The first EWP document (e.g. during your freshman year) must come from a 1000-level class that's classified as writing-intensive (e.g. English 1001). If you wish to submit an essay that you have written for my class, you must do so *during the semester that you are enrolled in the course*. You must also *discuss it with me, obtain my signature on the appropriate documents, etc. before Thanksgiving break*. **I will not be able to discuss EWP material during the last week of the semester, as well as during finals week.** You will receive more EWP details during the semester, and/or you can check out the website at www.eiu.edu/~access for further information.

WRITING CENTER

Occasionally I may refer you to the Writing Center, located on the third floor of Coleman Hall. The trained English graduate assistants are there to help you--free of charge (who ever said that nothing in life is free?)--with grammar, punctuation, and essay problems. **THEY ARE NOT PROOFREADERS.**

DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know about it; you should also contact the Coordinator of the Office of Student Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English 1001
Olsen
Sec 053 TTh 3:30-4:45 CH2120

Fall 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS

PLEASE NOTE: Assignments are to be completed by the date on which they appear on the syllabus. This is a tentative syllabus; changes may be made as needed throughout the semester. Bring book(s) to class if requested or if a reading assignment is due that day.

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|-----------------------------------|
| WA = <i>Writing Analytically</i> |
| NR = <i>The Norton Reader</i> |
| Blair = <i>The Blair Handbook</i> |

WEEK ONE

T (8/21) course introduction, policies, in -class writing sample
Th(8/23) audience, purpose. Read Blair pp

WEEK TWO

T(8/28) p.o.v., style, tone. Read Blair pp
Th(8/30) thesis. Read WA pp 198-207. Paragraphs. read Blair pp

WEEK THREE

T(9/4) Read and discuss "Laundry" (handed out in class last week). Discuss Essay # 1 topic.
Th(9/6) revising, proofreading. Read Blair pp . Also work in class on draft of Essay # 1. Bring required materials. (TBA)

WEEK FOUR

T(9/11) better sentences. Read Blair pp . Peer editing. Bring to class two printed copies of your rough draft.
Th(9/13) ESSAY # 1 DUE. Selective detail. Read Blair pp . Also discuss topic for Essay # 2. Read and discuss "True Worker" (handed out in class.).

WEEK FIVE

T(9/18) Discuss "Soup" (handed out in class). In-class work on draft of essay # 2 and/or peer editing. (Details TBA)
Th(9/20) Wordiness and redundancy. Read Blair pp . Also read "Paper or Plastic..." (handed out) and introduce Essay # 3 topic.

WEEK SIX

T(9/25) Day in Booth Library's e-classroom. **MEET AT SOUTH DOORS OF LIBRARY (the clock tower side). DO NOT GO TO OUR CLASSROOM!**
Th(9/27) ESSAY # 2 DUE. Begin documenting discussion. Bring Blair to class. Also sign up for midterm conferences.

WEEK SEVEN

T(10/2) More fun with documenting. Bring Blair.

Th(10/4) **CLASS WILL NOT MEET; INSTEAD, MEET IN MY OFFICE-3055- FOR MANDATORY MIDTERM CONFERENCES. BRING DRAFT OF ESSAY 3.**

WEEK EIGHT

T(10/9) **NO CLASS THIS WEEK. MANDATORY MIDTERM CONFERENCES.**

Th(10/11) **BRING DRAFT OF ESSAY # 3 WITH YOU.**

WEEK NINE

T(10/16) RETURN TO CLASS! ESSAY # 3 DUE. Introduce collaborative research project.

Th(10/18) researching day. Do not meet for class.

WEEK TEN

T(10/23) Tentative topic proposal due. Discuss research writing. Bring Blair.

Th(10/25) first progress check. Bring notecards and other required items (TBA) plus material to work on during class.

WEEK ELEVEN

T(10/30) progress check continued. Also, fun with weird punctuation.

Th(11/1) Sign up for research conferences. More documenting review, WC page discussion, etc. (details TBA)

WEEK TWELVE

T(11/6) **NO CLASS THIS WEEK. INSTEAD, MEET FOR GROUP RESEARCH**

Th(11/8) **CONFERENCES. BRING REQUIRED MATERIAL (TBA).**

****NOTE:** Optional revision is due by Tues, 11/6. Bring to conference or to my office or mailbox.

WEEK THIRTEEN

T(11/13) Return to class! Research paper and all required materials due at start of class. APA citation style review.

Th(11/15) TBA

WEEK FOURTEEN

T(11/20) NO CLASSES THIS WEEK. HAPPY THANKSGIVING BREAK!

Th(11/22) " " "

WEEK FIFTEEN

T(11/27) **LAST DAY TO GET MY SIGNATURE FOR EWP.** Discuss argument/persuasion. Read Blair pp . Discuss essay # 5 topic.

Th(11/29) Read and discuss "Why Shouldn't Society ..." and "Adventures In Equality" (handed out).

WEEK SIXTEEN

T(12/4) in-class work on rough draft and/or peer editing.

Th(12/6) ESSAY # 5 DUE. LAST DAY OF CLASS.