

Fall 8-15-2008

# ENG 1001G-049: Composition and Language

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**English 1001G – 049: Composition and Language**

Fall 2008

TR 3:30 – 4:45; CH 3150

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 9:30 – 10:30 am; 2:00 – 3:00 pm; and by appt.

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**Course Description, Design, and Goals:** English 1091G is a course in expository writing designed to improve your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. I have structured the course around your completion of five essay assignments, for each of which I will distribute a detailed assignment sheet. I have also assigned several readings from *The Norton Reader* to supplement our discussions of these writing assignments. See **Tentative Schedule** below.

Two of the five essays will be longer – minimum 1500 words – and will require documented research using MLA style. For the three others – minimum 750 words – research will be optional. Your grade will be based on your performance on these writing assignments, which includes participation in class workshops and attendance at conference meetings. See **Grading** below.

The goal throughout the semester is for you to produce writing that develops purposefully and economically. This is not an easy task for anyone. Consistent effort in revision – and in helping your classmates revise – is the best guarantee of success.

**Texts:** Peterson and Brereton, *The Norton Reader*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.  
Fulwiler, *The Blair Handbook*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Course Requirements:**

- 1) completion of five essay assignments, at least two of which require use of secondary print and internet sources, and of workshop response sheets
- 2) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings
- 3) participation in class workshops on a regular basis
- 4) attendance at all scheduled conferences

(You must complete successfully **all** the work listed above to pass the course.)

**Grading:** The five required essays will count for 90% of your grade; class participation will count for the remaining 10%. The two longer papers will count for 30% each and the three shorter papers for 10% each. I will grade each essay on a 100 point scale and

your final grade on a 100 point scale (A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59). Final grades for this course below 70 are officially recorded as NC (no credit).

**Course Policies:** Try to meet deadlines. Generally, I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, Speak to me before it is due. I am not inflexible. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Scheduled conferences and classroom workshops are required. Though I do not have an attendance policy, I will mark down your essay one full letter if you do not participate in workshops, and you obviously cannot earn the 10% for class participation without attending class regularly.

Missing a scheduled conference with me without excuse means an automatic F for the current essay assignment. Three conference meetings are required. See **Tentative Schedule**.

All essays ready for grading must be submitted in hard copy. All drafts for workshop classes must be presented in hard copy.

There is no mid-term or final for this course. You will have clear indication from the beginning, however, of my evaluation of your performance in the course, since I will grade each essay within one week of submission. The first essay is due Sept. 9.

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

English Department Statement 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 own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the 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."

**Tentative Schedule:**

Aug. 26: course introduction

Aug. 28: Lars Eighner, "On Dumpster Diving"; Wallace Stegner, "The Town Dump"; **essay #1 assigned**

Sept. 2: workshop essay #1

Sept. 4: workshop essay #1

Sept. 9: **essay #1 due**

Sept. 11: Tom Wolfe, "Yaeger"; Scott Sanders, "Under the Influence"; **essay #2 assigned**

Sept. 16: workshop essay #2

Sept. 18: workshop essay #2

Sept. 23: **essay #2 due**

Sept. 25: Ngugi wa Thiong'o, "Decolonizing the Mind"; Wayson Choy, "The Ten Thousand Things"; **essay #3 assigned**

Sept. 30: Scheduled Conferences; **No Class Meeting**

Oct. 2: Scheduled Conferences; **No Class Meeting**

Oct. 7: workshop essay #3

Oct. 9: workshop essay #3

Oct. 14: **essay #3 due**

Oct. 16: Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights"; Carl Cohen, "The Case for the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research"; **essay #4 assigned**

Oct. 21: workshop essay #4

Oct. 23: workshop essay #4

Oct. 28: **essay #4 due**

Oct. 30: Scheduled Conferences; **No Class Meeting**

Nov. 4: Scheduled Conferences; **No Class Meeting**

Nov. 6: Barbara Tuchman, "This Is the End of the World"; H. Bruce Franklin, "From Realism to Virtual Reality: Images of America's Wars"; **essay #5 assigned**

Nov. 11: workshop essay #5

Nov. 13: workshop essay #5

Nov. 18: **essay #5 due**

Nov. 20: reading to be announced

Nov. 25 and Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2: reading to be announced

Dec. 4: reading to be announced

Dec. 9: Scheduled Conferences; **No Class Meeting**

Dec. 11: Scheduled Conferences; **No Class Meeting**