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ENG 1001G-053: Composition and Language

Francine McGregor

Eastern Illinois University

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English 1001G-053
Composition and Language

Dr. Francine McGregor
3355 Coleman Hall
581-6305
fmcgregor@eiu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 10:15-11:30 / MW 2-3 / and by appointment

About the Course

The primary goal for this course is to help prepare you for the standards of writing expected from university students. To achieve this end, we’ll focus primarily on expository and persuasive writing with a few forays into the expressive. You’ll refine your research and documentation skills, and further enhance your skills in writing clear, focused, well-developed essays. By the end of semester, I hope you’ll have gained a sense of writing as a process and of yourselves as writers negotiating context and audience.

Required Texts

Columbo, et al., Rereading America, 5th/e (RA)
Dunbar-Odom, Working With Ideas, (WWI)
Fulwiler and Hayakawa, The Blair Handbook, 3rd/e (BH)

Course Requirements/ Evaluation

English 1001 is graded on an A, B, C, NC scale.

1) Four essays, one of which will be a revision of paper 1 or paper 2 40%
2) A research paper 15%
3) A short presentation on the results of your research 10%
4) Numerous in and out of class writings, peer reviews, and possibly reading quizzes 20%
5) Class participation. This includes active engagement with and contribution to the small groups you’ll be working with over the semester. It also includes thoughtful contribution to class discussions. 15%

*There will be no final exam for this course.
Policies

1) The reading and writing load for this course is heavy so make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete the reading and writing assignments. Keep in mind that if you come to class unprepared, you’ll be considered absent. On the less punitive side, class is simply a lot more fun, interesting, and useful when you’re prepared.

2) Much of what you will learn in this course will come from ideas generated in class discussion and from in-class workshops, so your presence in (and engagement with) the class are essential. Except in documented emergencies, three absences will lower your final grade by one full letter. Four or more absences will result in automatic failure.

3) Assignments must be handed in within the first five minutes of class on the day they are due unless we have worked out a prior arrangement. Major papers handed in after that time will lose half a letter grade for each calendar day it is late. No major papers will be accepted a week after the deadline.

4) In-class writing/quizzes cannot be made up. Keep in mind that if you’re absent, you’re still responsible for preparing all work for the next class. If you know you will be absent, let me know in advance so I can tell you what will be due, and you can turn it in ahead of time.

5) You’re required to meet with me once during the semester, but please feel free to meet with me as often as you like.

Plagiarism Policy

The following is the English department’s statement concerning 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' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of 'F' for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

While I assume I’ll have no need to impose penalties for plagiarism, the ones I consider appropriate are that the student fail the course and be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office. If at any point in your writing for this course (or for another, if you like) you’re uncertain about whether you’re using sources appropriately, please come and talk to me.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please let me know and please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Syllabus
(I’ll notify you in advance of any changes)
* Reading should be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus so we can discuss them in class. I’ll let you know if you’re required to complete any of the exercises described in the readings.

Week 1:
Mon. 21st: Introduction; diagnostic essay
Wed 22nd: “Reading Critically to Think Critically” (BH 10-25); “Introduction: Thinking Critically, Challenging Cultural Myths” (RA 1-15); Graff, “What Makes a Family” (RA 26-43)

Week 2:
Mon 27th: Hochman “Growing Pains,” (RA 45-51); Crittenden “About Marriage,” (RA 69-74)
Wed 29th: “Writing as a Process,” (WWI 11-24); Writing Workshop

Week 3:
Mon 3rd: Labor Day – No Class
Wed 5th: Mid-process draft of paper 1 is due; “Explaining Things,” (WWI 89-105); Writing Workshop

Week 4:
Mon 10th: First paper is due

Week 5:
Mon 17th: “Argument and Persuasion,” (WWI 25-36); Rose, “’I Just Wanna Be Average,’” (162-73); “The Revising Process,” (BH 314-22)
Wed 19th: Mid-process draft of paper 2 is due; “Focused Revising,” (BH 323-36); Writing Workshop

Week 6:
Mon 24th: “Shaping Strong Paragraphs,” (BH 364-75); “Improving Openings and Conclusions,” (BH 376-90); Writing Workshop
Wed 26th: Second Paper is due

Week 7:
Mon 1st: Parillo, “Causes of Prejudice,” (RA 548-61); Hughes, “Let America Be America Again,” (RA 545-47)
Wed 3rd: Terkel, “C.P. Ellis,” (RA 562-72); Steele, “I’m Black, You’re White,” (RA 573-83)

Week 8:
Mon 8th: conferences
Wed 10th: conferences

Week 9:
Mon 15th: “Strengthening Sentence Structure,” (BH 391-409); “Creating Emphasis and Variety,” (BH 410-24); Revision of paper 1 or 2 is due
Wed 17th: Mid-process draft of paper 3 is due

Week 10:
Mon 22nd: “Building Vital Sentences,” (BH 425-40); “Being Concise,” (BH 441-54)
Wed 24th: Third paper is due

Week 11:

Week 12:
Mon 5th: “Writing Research Essays,” (BH 148-67); “Conducting Library Research,” (BH 168-92); “Conducting Internet Research,” (BH 193-209)
Wed 7th: Writing Workshop

Week 13:
Mon 12th: Mid-process draft of paper 4 is due
Wed 14th: “Adjusting Tone,” (BH 455-64); Writing Workshop

Week 14:
Thanksgiving Break – No Classes

Week 15:
Mon 26th: Writing Workshop; EWP paper is due
Wed 28th: Writing Workshop

Week 16:
Mon 3rd: Presentation of final projects
Wed 5th: Presentation of final projects
Final papers are due