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ENG 1091G-098: Composition and Language (Honors)

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English 1091 Fall 2014

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-2, and by appointment

Overview

This course is designed to help you develop your writing, speaking, and presenting skills at the beginning of your college career. Through a series of short papers (roughly 800 words in length), you will explore principles of effective, direct writing through the accurate use of language, specific detailed illustration, writer-directed perspective, and audience-directed awareness, appropriate both for your work in college and in your lives beyond graduation. You will also develop your ability to respond to the work of other people in the class, both verbally and in writing through class discussion and formal written responses. Both the writing of your own papers and serving as an alert audience for each other's work are equally important in this class.

The course is organized as a writing workshop in which all papers will be presented orally to the class as a whole, with copies made for everyone in the room. This will enable us as a class to work with many examples of various writing strategies and methods derived from the class itself, while providing everyone with many opportunities to develop their abilities at oral presentation and active listening. As a class, we'll be able to see in real time both what works on the page and for the room, what the effect of various writing strategies and styles can be, and what sorts of responses prove useful and helpful to the work of others.

My hope is that through this class you will develop and grow confident in the skills you have as a writer, while at the same time learning to appreciate and respect the work and perspective of others/

Rules and regulations

Because of the workshop nature of this course, regular attendance is mandatory. More than a couple of absences throughout the semester will affect your final grade.

Respect for due dates is also mandatory, though with some flexibility. Learning to write to deadline and to keep the mechanics of the workshop working smoothly is part of the course. How well you keep up with the process will also be part of the final grade.

Active participation in class is expected and will be part of the final grade.

Evaluation will come in the form of two rounds of one-on-one conferences at various points in the semester. As an educator, I am most concerned with what is happening by the end of the semester, and through conferences, we will identify together and work to improve whatever strengths and weaknesses in your work seem indicated as you move from paper to paper. How well you respond to suggestions and work to develop your own writing will be part of the final evaluation.

Because of the nature of the papers in this course, plagiarism, i.e. stealing the words of someone else, will be difficult and foolish, but if it occurs, you will fail the class.

My expectation is that every member of the class will treat every other member with respect, consideration, and thoughtfulness. We all have much to learn from each other, and part of the final work for the class will ask you to think about that fact.

"You write the best you can, and you take your chances." Raymond Carver