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ENG 3001-001: Advanced Composition

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Eastern Illinois University

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ENGL 3001: Advanced Composition

Coleman Hall 3120 :: MWF 11:00-11:50 :: Spring 2020

Instructor

Dr. Woody Skinner

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Office: Coleman Hall 3040

Office Hours: Mondays—10:00-11:00 a.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays—10:00-11:00 a.m.

Fridays—10:00-11:00 a.m.

Required Texts and Materials

- Verlyn Klinkenborg, *Several Short Sentences about Writing*
- Selected Readings posted on D2L

Course Description

This course will prepare you to creatively approach writing in a variety of public, professional, and discipline-specific genres. You will deepen your readerly sensitivities by studying the techniques of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry, and you will draw from creative strategies to enliven your writing for a range of academic and professional environments.

Overview

We'll begin the semester with a focus on poetry. Each week we'll examine a single aspect of poetic craft, considering, as we move forward, how individual elements of craft combine to create meaning. During the second unit, you'll use your newfound awareness of creative craft to enhance your academic writing. After exploring the different modes of writing within your major or concentration, you'll employ poetic principles to revise your academic writing.

In the second half of the semester, we'll consider the academic and professional utility of narratives. Specifically, we'll read a range of short stories and essays, and you'll draw on their craft techniques to draft and refine *your story*. We'll conclude the course with an eye toward the future (life after graduation, in other words). You'll synthesize your knowledge of creative craft and narrative to write a compelling personal statement or cover letter.

Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Perform close readings of poems, short stories, and essays
- Understand, analyze, and discuss elements of creative craft
- Apply creative principles to your writing in a range of genres
- Powerfully present your personal, academic, and professional narratives

Course Policies

Attendance

It will be very difficult to succeed in this class if you do not regularly attend. You are allowed up to five unexcused absences; however, absences strongly correlate with lower final grades. After five unexcused absences, I may deduct fifty points, or half of a letter grade, for each missed class.

Tardiness

Please make every attempt to come to class on time. Four instances of tardiness will qualify as one unexcused absence.

Classroom Decorum

Constructive university classrooms require professors and students to respect differences—of background, thought, opinion, and belief. This notion holds special significance in our writing classroom, where you will be asked to routinely engage with your classmates' perspectives and experiences. Therefore, respect will serve as the guiding principle and bedrock expectation of our work together this semester.

On a daily basis, you will be required to bring the appropriate materials to class and to have completed assigned tasks. Focused classroom discussion plays a vital role in the development of critical thinking skills, so you will be expected to participate. Please remember to turn off cell phones and remove headphones before class, as inappropriate use of electronics may result in the loss of participation points. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class.

Late Work and Make-Up Work

Unless otherwise specified, all work will be due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. I do not accept late work unless qualifying circumstances are discussed with me beforehand. If you will be absent from class, you must make arrangements to turn in your assignment on time. I do not allow make-up work for missed in-class assignments or homework.

Policy on Plagiarism

Here is the English department's plagiarism policy: "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 of the English Language*)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and 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."

For our purposes, all intentionally plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of zero, and subsequent instances of academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of F. If, at any

point this semester, you find yourself uncertain about your use of sources, the best strategy is to ask me—*before* turning in your assignment.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

D2L

You will use D2L to view the syllabus, access supplemental readings, and turn in major assignments, so it will be important for you to familiarize yourself with the D2L platform. If, at any time, you have questions about our online resources or encounter a course-specific problem with D2L, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Electronic Writing Portfolio

English 3001 is a writing-centered course; therefore, essays written in this class may be included in your Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). Students who plan to submit one of our assignments to their EWP will be required to consult with me during office hours.

Additional Support

Office Hours

Students who take responsibility for their progress have the greatest chance for success—not only in this class but in all university courses. For that reason, I urge you to visit me during office hours. If the demands of your schedule prevent you from meeting during office hours, please contact me to make other arrangements—we will find a time that works well for both of us.

The Writing Center

I encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress.

To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929. The writing center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Grading

Assignment	Grade
Craft Responses (½ page each x 8 = 4 pages)	20% (2.5% x 8)
Poetic Analysis (2-3 pages)	15%
Disciplinary Inventory (1-2 pages)	5%
Disciplinary Revision (2-4 pages)	10%
Your Story (5-7 pages)	20%
Writing Your Future Project (3-5 pages)	20%
Participation (class discussions, in-class writing, peer support, and quizzes)	10 %
Total	100%

Schedule

The dates below are tentative; I reserve the right to make adjustments for the benefit of the class.

Unit One: Poetic Writing

Week 1	1/13/20	1/15/20	1/17/20
Image	Intro to Course Diagnostic Writing --"The Wooden Overcoat" (D2L)	--"Learning Image and Description" (D2L) --"There Are Birds Here" (D2L) --"Gradations of Blue" (D2L)	--"What Do Women Want?" (D2L) --"A Display of Mackerel" (D2L) --"Cymothoa Exigua" (D2L)

Week 2	1/20/20	1/22/20	1/24/20
Language	Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Class Canceled	--"The Medium of the English Language" (Excerpted on D2L) --"Care" (D2L) --"Play in which Darkness Falls" (D2L) Craft Response #1 due by midnight	Consonance: --"Scavenging the Wall" (D2L) --"The Jew" (D2L) --"The Crow" (D2L) Assonance: --"Drift-Raft" (D2L) --"Thread" (D2L) --"Chord" (D2L)

Week 3	1/27/2020	1/29/20	1/31/20
Form	--"Ode to the Clothesline" (D2L) --"Sometimes I Wish I Felt the Side Effects" (D2L) Craft Response #2 due by midnight	--"Enlightenment" (D2L) --"Buzzards" (D2L)	--"My Brother at 3 a.m." (D2L) --"For the Dogs Who Barked at Me" (D2L) --"It's Not Like Nikola Tesla" (D2L)

Week 4	2/3/20	2/5/20	2/7/20
Rhetoric In-Class Drafting	Craft Response #3 due by midnight --"Do not go gentle into that good night" (D2L)	--"Carolina Prayer" (D2L) --"In Colorado My Father" (D2L)	--"Graduation Day" (D2L) --"Against Dying" (D2L)

Unit Two: Writing in Your Discipline

Week 5	2/10/20	2/12/20	2/14/20
Disciplinary Genres Sentence-Level Writing Academic Conventions	Pp. 1-13 of Klinkenborg	Pp. 14-26 of Klinkenborg	Lincoln's Birthday: Class Canceled

Week 6	2/17/20	2/19/20	2/21/20
Disciplinary Processes	Poetic Analysis Due by Class Time	Pp. 27-38 of Klinkenborg	Pp. 39-52 of Klinkenborg
Sentence-Level Decisions			Craft Response #4 due by midnight
Authority			

Week 7	2/24/20	2/26/20	2/28/20
Disciplinary Revisions	Pp. 53-64 of Klinkenborg	Pp. 65-78 of Klinkenborg	Pp. 79-92 in Klinkenborg
Grammar, Diction, and Audience			Disciplinary Inventory Due by 5:00 p.m.
Revision			

Unit Three: Telling Your Story

Week 8	3/2/20	3/4/20	3/6/20
Point of View	--Borich essay (D2L)	--"Joy" (D2L)	--Strayed excerpt (D2L)

Week 9	3/9/20	3/11/20	3/13/20
Character	--"A Lucky Man" (D2L)	--"The Body's Defenses Against Itself" (D2L)	Disciplinary Revision Due by Class Time
	Craft Response #5 Due by Midnight		--"Eleven" (D2L)

Week 10	3/16/2019	3/18/2019	3/20/2019
Spring Break	Class Canceled	Class Canceled	Class Canceled

Week 11	3/23/20	3/25/20	3/27/20
Setting	--Angela Carter piece --Burroway reading	--"The Instruction" (D2L)	Craft Response #6 due by midnight
			--"The English Pupil" (D2L)

Week 12	3/30/20	4/1/20	4/3/20
Conflict and Plot	--"Victory Lap" (D2L)	--"The Solutions to Ben's Problem" (D2L)	--"Cattle Haul" (D2L)

Week 13	4/6/20	4/8/20	4/10/20
Conflict and Plot, Continued	--"Everything That Rises Must Converge" (D2L)	--"202 Checkmates" (D2L)	--"Worst-Case Scenario" (D2L) Craft Response #7 due by 5:00

Unit Four: Writing for Your Future

Week 14	4/13/20	4/15/20	4/17/20
Personal Statements Academic Identity	Pp. 93-99 of Klinkenborg	Pp. 100-119 of Klinkenborg	Your Story Due by Class Time

Week 15	4/20/20	4/22/20	4/24/20
Cover Letters Professional Identity	Pp. 110-120 of Klinkenborg	Pp. 121-130 in Klinkenborg	Pp. 131-141 in Klinkenborg Craft Response #8 due by 5:00 p.m.

Week 16	4/27/20	4/29/20	5/1/20
In-Class Drafting Small-Group Workshops	In-Class Drafting Pp. 142-149 in Klinkenborg	Small-Group Workshops	Small-Group Workshops

Finals Week	Wednesday, May 6th		
	Writing Your Future Project Due by 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6th.		