

Fall 8-15-2009

ENG 1091G-095: Composition and Language, Honors

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English 1091G – 095 Composition and Language

1091G-095

Fall 2009

John David Moore

Classroom: CH3170

Time: TR 11:00-12:15

Office: CH 3771

Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00; 12:30-2:00 & by appointment

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Strictly speaking, there will be no syllabus until the course is finished because we will be creating a syllabus as we go along. You will be writing on topics and in formats determined by the directions and questions arising through class discussion and reading. The creation of topics will be a class function – a group effort. The various sorts of writing – exposition, argument, analysis, etc. – as well as audiences and purposes for the writing, will be determined by the topics evolving from class discussion. Since we can't safely predict what topics will arise, or when they will arise, no detailed, day-by-day course agenda is possible. Essentially, this approach to the class will be an experiment – both for you and for me.

GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Despite the lack of a strict syllabus, the course will have some structure in the manner of a foundation – a place to start writing and discussion – and a few rules/guidelines which may, however, need modification as the course evolves.

Our starting point for thinking, discussing, reading and writing will be serious and possibly urgent. None of that “How I spent my summer” or “A person I admire” stuff. The question we will start with will also be large enough to open up unpredictable directions for exploration:

Given the chance or necessity of starting over from a totally collapsed civilization, what sort of new society would you build?

This question will be the basis for all writing you will be doing this term. Although there will be no restrictions on where this question will lead, we will have two rules governing the consideration of this question:

- 1. In this new society, you cannot determine who you will be in terms of the conditions of your birth.**
- 2. All previous knowledge remains available for those wishing to find it and all previous technology can be reproduced.**

There will also be some procedural guidelines for class meetings:

- 1. For each class meeting, two students will take notes, meet later to consolidate those notes and then e-mail them to the class.**
- 2. Once every two weeks a class meeting will be devoted exclusively to issues of writing style, mechanics and organization.**

We may decide to implement further guidelines as we proceed. These, however, will provide all the structure you'll need to get started.

Grades, Reading, Papers, Attendance

- Attendance required! Minimum of four excused absences before grade drops by half a letter (eg. A to A-) for each additional absence.
- Reading will be assigned on the basis of what becomes relevant to our discussions.
- Topics for at least five graded pieces of writing will be determined as we proceed.
- All graded writing counts equally and all assigned writing must be completed. Final grade determined based on participation and the averaged paper grades.

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 original work' -- 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."

Information for Students with Disabilities: 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.