

Fall 8-15-2010

ENG 1091G-098: Composition and Language, Honors

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1091G-098

English 1091G: Composition and Language (Honors)

Fall 2010

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: 3775 Coleman Hall

Office Hours: TR 8:30 – 9:30 am and 2:00 – 3:00 pm; MWF by appointment

Phone: 581-6292

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Course Description and Objectives: English 1091G is a course in expository writing designed to improve your critical thinking, reading and writing skills. Since this is an honors section, we will work to a high standard and at an accelerated pace throughout the semester. The goal is to produce writing that is clear, precise, and effective.

I have designed the course around two major works of English literature: a nineteenth century epic poem (Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*) and a contemporary novel (McEwan's *Atonement*). I am particularly interested in the questions these works raise about English national identity and about how literature is used to inscribe values that to some extent define a people and a country, but this is only one of many ideas that we will consider in our discussions, and you will be free to follow your own interests in them and the issues they raise during the semester.

You will write several essays in response to these works and our discussions of them; many will require documented research, though the two longer essays (#1 and #2) will require that you consult multiple sources and will count for considerably more than the shorter pieces. I will distribute an assignment sheet for each essay. In the two longer essays, you will be free to choose your own topic. The assignments for shorter essays, a few of which you will write in class, will be more prescriptive.

Generally, in the computer classroom (CH3120)*, where we will meet every other week, your time will be spent composing or revising or helping classmates in your work group to compose or revise. In the computer room you will also have access to electronic databases for your research projects.

We will also meet in conference twice during the semester, for which classroom meetings will be cancelled. I will distribute a conference schedule ahead of time.

I do not accept late papers or papers submitted electronically, except by prior arrangement. If you get behind with your work, please talk to me about it before work is due.

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.

I enforce the 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."

Requirements and Grading: several brief essays (20%)
two longer essays (70%)
participation in discussions and workshops (10%)

Textbooks: Fulwiler, Toby. *The Blair Handbook*
McEwan, Ian. *Atonement*
Tennyson, Alfred Lord. *Idylls of the King*

Tentative Schedule:

- *Aug. 24: course introduction
- *Aug. 26: *Idylls*, "The Coming of Arthur"; in-class writing
- Aug. 31: "The Passing of Arthur"
- Sept. 2: "Gareth and Lynette"
- *Sept. 7: in-class writing; workshop
- *Sept. 9: in-class writing; workshop
- Sept. 14: "Merlin and Vivien"
- Sept. 16: **essay #1 topic statement due**; workshop
- *Sept. 21: **essay #1 bibliography due**; workshop
- *Sept. 23: "Lancelot and Elaine"; short essay due
- Sept. 28: "The Holy Grail"
- Sept. 30: **essay #1 draft due**; workshop
- *Oct. 5: scheduled conferences; no class meeting
- *Oct. 7: scheduled conferences; no class meeting
- Oct. 12: **essay #1 due**; workshop
- Oct. 14: *Atonement*, Part One, 1-7

*Oct. 19: *Atonement*, Part One, 8-14; in-class essay; workshop

*Oct. 21: *Atonement*, Part Two; in-class essay; workshop

Oct. 26: *Atonement*, Part Three

Oct. 28: *Atonement*; short essay due

*Nov. 2: *Atonement*

*Nov. 4: **essay #2 topic statement due**; workshop

Nov. 9: **essay #2 bibliography due**; workshop

Nov. 11: reading to be announced

*Nov. 16: reading to be announced

*Nov. 18: **essay #2 draft due**; workshop

Nov. 22 – 26: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30: scheduled conferences; no class meeting

Dec. 2: scheduled conferences; no class meeting

*Dec. 7: **essay #2 due**; workshop

*Dec. 9: course evaluations

There is no final exam for this course.