

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 1091G-098: Composition and Language: Honors

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Recommended Citation

Sylvia, Richard, "ENG 1091G-098: Composition and Language: Honors" (2005). *Fall 2005*. 60.
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English 1091G-098: Composition and Language (Honors)

TR 9:30 – 1045; CH 3130/3120

Fall 2005

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 8:30 – 9:30 am; MW 10:00 -- 11:00 am; and by appt.

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Course Description, Design, and Goals: 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 at an accelerated pace throughout the semester.

This semester I have chosen to structure the course around readings from *A World of Ideas*, a collection of readings for college writers. See **Texts** below. I will assign several readings from two sections of the book, "Mind" and "Nature," and design writing assignments that will give you an opportunity to explore these two broad categories of human experience, using a variety of approaches. As part of the campus-wide "One Book" program, we will also read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, which will complement nicely issues raised by the readings from *A World of Ideas*, especially issues concerning the nature of human understanding and our place in the universe.

An assignment sheet will detail requirements for each essay. Two of the five essays will be longer – minimum 1500 words – and will require documented research. For the three others – minimum 750 words – research will be optional. Your grade will be determined on your performance on these writing assignments, which includes participation in class workshops and attendance at conference meetings. See **Grading** below.

The goal throughout the semester is for you to produce writing that develops purposefully and economically. This is not an easy task for anyone. Consistent effort in revision – and in helping members of your work group to revise – is the best guarantee of success.

In the computer classroom (CH 3120), where we will meet every other week, your time will be spent composing, revising your essays, or helping classmates in your work group to revise their work. When we are in the regular classroom (CH 3130), we will discuss assigned readings, the current writing assignment, and issues of writing competency.

Texts: Jacobus, Lee, ed. *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers*.
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*.

Requirements:

- 1) completion of five essay assignments, at least two of which will require use of secondary printed and internet sources
- 2) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings
- 3) participation in your work group on a regular basis
- 4) attendance at all scheduled conferences

(You must complete successfully **all** the work listed above to pass the course.)

Grading: The five required essays will count for 90% of your grade; class participation will count for the remaining 10%. The two longer papers will count for 30% each and the three shorter papers for 10% each. I will grade each essay on a 100 point scale and your final grade on a 100 point scale (A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59). Final grades below 70 are officially recorded as NC (no credit).

Course Policies: Try to meet deadlines. Generally, I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, Speak to me before it is due. I am not inflexible. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Conferences and classroom workshops are required. Though I do not have an attendance policy, I will mark down your essay if you do not participate in workshops, and you obviously cannot earn the 10% for class participation without attending class regularly.

Missing a scheduled conference with me without excuse means an automatic F for the current essay assignment. (Two conference meetings are required. See **Tentative Schedule**.)

Though I may read essay drafts in electronic form, completed essays ready for grading must be submitted in hard copy. (The computer classroom is equipped with two laser printers.)

There is no mid-term or final for this course. You will have clear indication from the beginning, however, of your performance in the course, since I will grade each essay within one week of submission.

This is a writing-centered course. You must submit an essay completed for this class or for 1002/92G to your Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). Visit the assessment website: <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess> for details.

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.

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."

Tentative Schedule:

Aug. 23: course introduction

Aug. 25: Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave"

*Aug. 30: Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams*; **essay #1 assigned**

*Sept. 1: workshop essay #1

Sept. 6: Jung, "The Personal and the Collective Unconscious"; **essay #1 due**

Sept. 8: Horney, "The Distrust between the Sexes"; **essay #2 assigned**

*Sept. 13: workshop essay #2

*Sept. 15: workshop essay #2

Sept. 20: Crick, "The General Nature of Consciousness"; **essay #2 due**

Sept. 22: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*; **essay #3 assigned**

*Sept. 27, 29: **scheduled conferences** – no class meeting

Oct. 4: Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Oct. 6: *Frankenstein*

*Oct. 11: workshop essay #3

*Oct. 13: workshop essay #3

Oct. 18: Darwin, "Natural Selection"; **essay #3 due**

Oct. 20: Carson, "Nature Fights Back"; **essay #4 assigned**

*Oct. 25: workshop essay #4

*Oct. 27: workshop essay #4

Nov. 1: Gould, "Nonmoral Nature"

Nov. 3: Kaku, "The Mystery of Dark Matter"

*Nov. 8, 10: **scheduled conferences** – no class meeting; **essay # 4 due**

Nov. 15: Feynman, "The Relation of Science and Religion" **essay #5 assigned**

Nov. 17: reading to be announced

Nov. 22, 24: Thanksgiving Break

*Nov. 29: workshop essay #5

*Dec. 1: workshop essay #5

Dec. 6, 8: **scheduled conferences** – no class meeting; **essay #5 due**