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## ENG 1091G-093: Composition and Language: Honors

Dagni Bredesen

*Eastern Illinois University*

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English 1091G-093 (Honors)  
 Class Meeting: M-W 16.30-17.45  
 Autumn 2008/Coleman Hall 3150

Dr. Dagni Bredesen  
 Office Hours: T/W 1.30-2.45 pm and by appointment  
 Office: Coleman Hall 3556  
 Email: [dabredesen@eiu.edu](mailto:dabredesen@eiu.edu) Phone: 217-581-6294



### Course Description:

English 1091 is an interdisciplinary expository writing course, which means that the readings and writing assignments will be drawn from a variety of fields of study. We will look at different styles, purposes, and requirements of writing in particular academic (and sometimes, non-academic) contexts; this course is useful for any major.

This section of English 1091 focuses upon the theme of "Travel and the Traveler." In this class, students will develop their writing skills as they examine the rhetoric of travel writing and issues attendant to travel and tourism as cultural practices. We will hone writing skills through formal and informal writing exercises and assignments, extensive reading and intensive discussions that emphasize careful critical reflection of the verbal and visual texts we encounter.

### Required Texts\* and Materials:

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer  
*King Solomon's Mines* by H. Rider Haggard  
*Pocket Style Manual* by Diane Hacker (available at Textbook Rental Services)  
*The Power of Maps* by Denis Wood  
*Writing about Literature*  
 A good college-level dictionary  
 Film viewing: "Everest" and film of your choice from the selected list for review

\* all texts available through TEXTBOOK RENTAL SERVICES unless noted

### **Course Requirements:**

This course emphasizes close reading, in-class discussion, and attention to writing issues. Attendance and participation are mandatory and crucial to your success. This class is smaller than many and relies heavily on peer interaction and evaluation in its aim to establish a collaborative writing community. Thus, your commitment to being present is important, not only for your intellectual growth, but that of your classmates. If you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to find out what went on.

The course grade will be determined as follows: Unit One—Orientations (10 points); Unit Two: “Imperial Eyes” single-page essay (20 points); Unit Three: “Going to Extremes”—one hour in-class essay (15 points); Unit Four: Research Paper—proposal, annotated bibliography, research report and presentation, as well as a standard-format persuasive, research-based five to seven page essay (30 points); miscellaneous writing assignments and peer edits (15 points); Film review (10 points). **You cannot pass this class without fulfilling all the assignments. Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will lose .3 grade points per day off the unit grade (this includes weekends and holidays).**

As far as nightly homework, in addition to the reading, there may be some short writing assignments, but the majority of the written work will be devoted to your paper drafts.

There are no tests in this class.

**Please Note:** Apart from in-class assignments, the writing you turn in for class needs to be typed, spell-checked, and properly formatted (i.e. your name, the date, the title of the assignment, proper paragraphing and use of citations where necessary).

*Attendance and Participation:* As mentioned above. Your participation is a factor in your grade. I expect you to pay attention, contribute ideas, and ask questions. Please don’t fall asleep in class or try to read the *Daily Eastern News*. Furthermore, it is necessary to attend every class. If you miss a class you will need to collect materials and notes from a “study-buddy,” that is one of your classmates with whom you have agreed to exchange information etc. You may miss class THREE times, no questions asked. After three absences you will lose a third of a grade for every day in excess of those allowed; so, for example, if you are getting a B- and you are absent a fourth day, your grade will be dropped to a C+.

Conferences with me are also a course requirement. You will sign up for these in advance. Please also take advantage of my office hours whenever you have questions or problems, or if you just want extra clarification of an assignment. (I am available by appointment if you can’t make my office hours).

Please see attached handout on Eastern Illinois University’s Plagiarism Policy

## English 1091 Course Schedule (may be subject to change)

### Week One:

M: Aug 25 Syllabus is distributed

Assignment #1: Choose ONE of the following options:

1. Write about the most interesting place you have ever been? What made it so fascinating or fun?
2. Write about the most dreadful trip you have taken some place and the awful time you had? What made it so terrible?
3. Write about a place that you have never been that attracts you and try to explain what draws you to this place. What is it about the idea of this place that makes it so appealing?

Whichever option you choose involve as many of your senses as possible in your description. Length: 2 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 point font. Please email the completed assignment to Dr. Bredesen: [dabredesen@eu.edu](mailto:dabredesen@eu.edu) formatted as an rtf file. Due by Wednesday 5 pm.

Assignment #2: Pick up texts from TRS and start reading *The Power of Maps*

W/Aug 27

Continue reading *The Power of Maps* (be prepared to discuss chapter 1-5 by Wednesday, September 3). After you have read the first three chapters of the *Power of Maps*, choose 2 or 3 maps that you think serve an interesting function and that you would want to study further, that is, maps you would want to actually want to write on.

Here are some suggested websites (At least one of your maps should come from one of these sites).

- Ancient World Mapping Center (University of North Carolina) <http://www.unc.edu/awmc/>
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection <http://rumsey.geogarage.com/> Note: this link will take you to a world map with what looks like it has coins scattered all over it. Click on the region and it will show you a historical map of that place.\
- Mapping History (The Darkwing Atlas Project) [mappinghistory.uoregon.edu](http://mappinghistory.uoregon.edu)
- (interactive maps and atlases in European and American history)
- University of Texas, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

You may also choose a more recent map: for example, representing election/campaign results (for example: red states/blue states); maps of the earth from space; or maps representing a fictional land; medical maps that chart the presence of disease in given areas, etc. Please email me if you have any questions.

Please print up a copy of each of the maps you have selected, along with a paragraph explaining what the map represents, the information it is trying to convey, as well as some of your initial ideas about the map (you may want to do a bit of research so you will be discuss its significance) and bring the maps and write-ups with you to a 15" conference with Dr. Bredesen in week two.

Please see Dr. Murray and sign up for a conference.

**Week Two:** Tuesday/Wednesday Conferences with Dr. Bredesen

M/Sept 1 **LABOR DAY/NO CLASS**

W/Sept 3 Discuss Course with Dr. Bredesen

Introduce Unit One: "Orientations"

Discuss *The Power of Maps* chapters 1-5 and the presentation

Assignment: finish reading *The Power of Maps* chapters 6-7

Due Monday: 5" presentation on maps

**Week Three:**

M Sept 8 Discuss *The Power of Maps* and begin presentations  
W Sept 10 finish presentations  
Go over questions regarding the first essay

**Week Four:**

M: Sept 15 DUE 1.1 essay Bring 3 copies  
Revision Strategies  
W: Sept 17 Peer Edit Returned (2 copies: 1 for instructor/1 for peer)  
Revision Strategies continued  
Assignment: Complete revisions of the Unit One essay, due Monday.  
Bring copy of *King Solomon's Mines* to class

**Week Five:**

M: Sept 22 Due 1.2  
Introduction to Unit 2: "Imperial Eyes"  
1. The British Empire  
2. Cecil B. Rhodes and South Africa  
3. Travel as Adventure  
4. Handouts: Pratt essay on "Contact Zone" and study questions  
5. Using Databases  
Assignment: Start reading *King Solomon's Mines* chapters I- IV  
Chapter One in *Writing About Literature*  
  
W: Sept 24 Begin discussion of *King Solomon's Mines*: Jose de Silvestre's map, imperial masculinity.  
Assignment: read *KSM* chapters V-XII and be prepared to discuss Pratt's essay

**Week Six:**

M: Sept 29 Discuss chapters V-XII and Pratt  
Assignment: read *KSM* XIII-XVI  
W: Oct 1 Discuss assigned reading.  
Assignment: finishing reading *KSM*

**Week Seven:**

M: Oct 6 Discuss conclusion of *KSM*, Introduction to Unit Two paper  
W: Oct 8 Brainstorming Paper #2

**Week Eight:**

M: Oct 13 Paper #2.1 due. **BRING THREE COPIES of Paper to class**  
In-class Author Assessment; Peer Edit  
Assignment: Take Home Peer Edit  
W: Oct 15 Revision strategies

**Week Nine:**

M: Oct 20 Peer Edit due Revision strategies

W: Oct 22 Revised paper 2.2 Due./In class assessment  
Introduce Units Three and Four:  
Unit Three: "Going to Extremes"  
Assignment: Read *Into Thin Air* pp1-150  
Unit Four: The Research Paper  
Assignment: Choose topic

**Week Ten:**

M: Oct 27 Discuss *ITA* For Monday: Finish Reading *ITA* and read short editorial on Sir Edmund Hillary  
W: Oct 29 Research Proposal Due: 1-2 paragraphs (see handout)  
The Annotated Bibliography

**Week Eleven:**

M: Nov 3 Discuss second half of *ITA* and Tips on writing an in-class Essay  
Introduction to: The Message Box  
Assignment: Prep outline for in-class essay  
W: Nov 5 Library Research Lab: On line, Journals and in the Stacks

**Week Twelve:** This week: MEET IN COMPUTER LAB

M: Nov 10 In class writing assignment 1 hour; Meet in room 3210  
Introduce the Research Report Due: Monday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>.  
W: Nov 12 **Due:** The Annotated Bibliography  
Work on The Research Report

**Week Thirteen:**

M: Nov 17 **Due:** The Research Report  
The Research-Based Persuasive Essay: Argument and Audience  
T: Nov 18 Conferences  
W: Nov 19 Conferences More on the Message Box  
Assignments: prep for presentations and watch a film chosen from the Travel Film List. Film review due December 10th

**THANKSGIVING BREAK: Nov 24-29**

**Week Fourteen:**

M: Dec 1 Judicious Quoting and Citation format 10" Presentations begin (3 students)  
W: Dec 3 10" Presentations continued (6 students)

**Week Fifteen:**

M: Dec 8 10" Presentations (6 students)  
W: Dec 10 10" Presentations (3 students)  
Film reviews due/ Discussion  
Evaluations

**Final Paper Due: Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by 3pm**

**Available for pick up at Dr. Bredeesen's office Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> between 1.30-4pm.**