

Fall 8-15-2009

ENG 1091G-099: Composition and Language, Honors

David Raybin
Eastern Illinois University

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English 1091.098: Composition and Language, Honors
Fall 2009

Instructor: **David Raybin**

Office: **3761 [324] Coleman Hall**

Office Hours: **TuW 9:30-11:30** (and by appointment)

Telephone: **581-6980** (office); **330/678-2628** (home, weekends before 8:30)

Electronic Mail: **draybin@eiu.edu**

Texts: Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
 Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
 Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*
 Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
 Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: A Natural History of Family and Place*
 Toby Fulwiler, *The Blair Handbook*, 5th ed.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August | 25: Introduction to the course
27: Maclean, <i>A River Runs Through It</i> , pp. 1-104 |
| September | 1: Maclean, <i>A River Runs Through It</i> , Foreword, Acknowledgments, and pp. 105-23
3: Maclean, <i>A River Runs Through It</i> , pp. 125-217 |
| September | 8: Paper #1
Conference
10: Abbey, <i>Desert Solitaire</i> , pp. xi-94

15: Abbey, <i>Desert Solitaire</i> , pp. 95-195
17: Abbey, <i>Desert Solitaire</i> , pp. 196-269

22: Paper #2
Conference
24: Williams, <i>Refuge</i> , pp. 3-95

29: Williams, <i>Refuge</i> , pp. 96-190 |
| October | 1: Williams, <i>Refuge</i> , pp. 191-290

6: Paper #3
Conference
8: Dillard, <i>Pilgrim</i> , pp. 3-77

13: Dillard, <i>Pilgrim</i> , pp. 78-183
15: Dillard, <i>Pilgrim</i> , pp. 184-277

20: No class – Paper #4
22: O'Brien, <i>The Things They Carried</i> , pp. 1-92

27: O'Brien, <i>The Things They Carried</i> , pp. 93-182
29: O'Brien, <i>The Things They Carried</i> , pp. 183-273 |
| November | 3: Research Project - prospectus
5: Conference

10: Research Paper – three-page summary
12: Class Workshop |

17: **Research Project – draft of ten-page paper**

19: Conference

24-26: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1: Class Workshop

3: **Research Project – final copy of ten-page paper**

December 8: To be announced

10: **Portfolio of Short Essays**

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

Four papers and portfolio	40 points
Research project	50 points
Participation	10 points

Course Grade: **A**= 91-100; **B**= 82-90.99; **C**= 73-81.99; **D**= 65-72.99; **F**= below 65

Writing Assignments. You will write and later revise four short papers. You will also complete a research project, including a prospectus, a summary, a first draft, and a final paper of at least ten pages. Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. Handouts will describe the assignments more fully.

Participation. This is not a lecture class. I expect you to show up for every class and offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion.

Course/University Policies

Typing. Your papers must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on honesty. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

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."

Course Description

During the first nine weeks, you will read five books, each a classic of writing about a place and the natural world. In class we will discuss the books, and you are expected to be fully engaged in the discussion. Outside of class, you will write four short papers, experimenting with different approaches to observing and writing. Later, you will revise these papers into a portfolio of your writing. During the final six weeks, you will engage in a research project, the goal being to learn enough about some feature of the world around you to write a knowledge-based ten-page paper in which you say something you care about to a reader . . . and say it both intelligently and beautifully.