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ENG 1091G-099: Composition and Language: Honors

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English 1091G: Composition and Language

Instructor: Dr. David Radavich
Office: 3785 Coleman Hall
Telephone: 581-6971 (Office) or daradavich@eiu.edu
Office Hours: 13:00-14:00 MWF, 10:00-11:00 F, and by appointment

Required Texts:

Fulwiler, Toby, and Alan R. Hayakawa, *The Blair Handbook*
Peterson, Linda H. and John C. Brereton, *The Norton Reader*

PURPOSE. This course offers an introduction to college-level writing, applicable for a broad range of future academic courses and professional contexts. We will read and discuss thematically related essays on historical and contemporary issues, to which you will respond in writing. We will also deal with writing strategies and problems, from audience awareness and grammar to sentence-combining and documentation. Our goal will be to help you express your views more clearly and forcefully to a targeted audience. In rhetorical terms, the focus will be on persuasive writing and argumentation, including an understanding of logic. You will write a series of papers and have an opportunity to revise and polish your thinking and language, with input from the instructor and other members of the class. This is a class not only in writing but also in reading, thinking, discussing, and responding through language.

ASSIGNMENTS. The core part of the course will consist of six in- and out-of-class essays, supplemented by smaller writing exercises. Most papers will require documentation. There will be a mid-term exam over the readings and discussion. In lieu of a final exam, at the end of term you will be required to turn in a portfolio of two revised essays.

ESSAY FORMAT. In-class essays should be written legibly on paper with wide lines and margins for ample commentary. Use blue or black ink only. Fold each theme vertically (so it is long and thin) and put your name and course number on the outside. Include your name and page numbers on the inside pages.

Out-of-class essays must be typed double-spaced. Print in 12-point, easily readable font and proofread carefully for errors.

GRADING. The papers written during term will make up 50% of the course grade. Participation - which includes class discussion and all in-class exercises - will count 20%. The mid-term exam will be worth 10%. And the final portfolio will count 20%. In the event your course average hovers between two grades, I will weigh the later work more heavily than that done early in the semester.

LATE WORK. Assignments turned in late will be penalized one-third grade PER CALENDAR DAY late. Missed in-class quizzes cannot be made up; that is the reward for coming to class regularly.

ATTENDANCE POLICY. You are assumed to be professionals-in-training and are expected to attend class regularly as you would show up for work on the job. The attendance policy for the course will operate as follows: you may miss up to one week of class without penalty; this allows you flexibility in case of illness or unexpected emergency. Thereafter, the course grade will be lowered proportionately for each week missed. If you are absent more than four weeks of class, you will automatically receive an F in the course.

PLAGIARISM. According to University policy,

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" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*) - 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.

CONFERENCES. I encourage you to consult with me at any mutually convenient time about paper ideas, planning, problems, revision, etc.

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.

English 1091C Assignments (Radavich)

- Aug. 25 - Introduction
27 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapters 2-3 (Reading, Thinking and Writing)
29 - Essay #1 (In-class)
- Sept. 1 - Labor Day; No Class
3 - Burgess, "Is America Falling Apart?"
5 - Baldwin, "Stranger in the Village"
- Sept. 8 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapters 5-6 (Developing Ideas)
10 - Mernissi, "The Harem Within"
12 - Essay #2 (Out-of-class)
- Sept. 15 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapters 23-24 (Paragraphs, Intros and Conclusions)
17 - Holt, "How Teachers Make Children Hate Reading"
19 - Bird, "College Is a Waste of Time and Money"
- Sept. 22 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapter 25 (Sentences)
24 - Norris, "The Holy Use of Gossip"
26 - Sentence Exercises
- Sept. 29 - Essay #3 (Out-of-class)
- Oct. 1 - Chief Seattle, "Letter to President Pierce"
3 - Discussion
- Oct. 6 - Williams, "The Clan of One-Breasted Women"
8 - Tuchman, "The Black Death"
10 - No class; Fall Break
- Oct. 13 - MIDTERM EXAM
15 - Thiong'o, "Decolonizing the Mind"
17 - Wording; connotations
- Oct. 20 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapter 9 (Argument)
22 - Logic Workshop
24 - Rodriguez, "Aria"
- Oct. 27 - Essay #4 (In-class)
29 - Conferences
31 - Copland, "How We Listen"
- Nov. 3 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapters 11-12 (Planning the research paper)
5 - Fitzgerald, "Rewriting American History"
7 - Discussion

- Nov. 10 - Essay #5 (In-class)
12 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapter 30 (Revising Wording)
14 - Discussion
- Nov. 17 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapter 16 (Using Sources)
19 - Niebuhr, "Humor and Faith"
21 - *Blair Handbook*, Chapter 55 (Documentation)
- Nov. 24-28 - Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1 - Essay #6 (Out-of-class)
3 - Nussbaum, "The Idea of World Citizenship"
5 - Oral Reports
- Dec. 8 - Oral Reports
10 - Oral Reports
12 - Review and Discussion; Portfolio Due

NO FINAL EXAM