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ENG 3300-001: Seminar in English Studies

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ENGLISH 3300-Seminar in English Studies: Becoming a Public Intellectual

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
Office: Coleman Hall 3321
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Class: Coleman Hall 3140, MWF, 10:00-10:50 am
Office Hours: MF 11:00am-2:00pm or by appt.

The world needs to hear from smart people who can think critically and communicate well. The world needs to hear from you. In this course, we will explore the myriad ways you can bring your substantial skills as an English major to bear in various public forums, from newspaper editorials, magazine and blog entries, multi-modal projects, effective web and twitter presences, as well as more traditional essays and presentations.

Identity & Culture

Genre, Form, & Poetics

Education & Society

Media, Technology & Popular Culture

Objectives Include (but are not limited to):

- Advance their critical reading skills in various genres and media within English studies.
- Demonstrate research skills in one or more fields within English studies using scholarly databases and archives.
- Develop analyses of scholarly or public documents in various media with attention to literary, rhetorical and/or public contexts.
- Develop critical writing skills and strategies by producing documents of various length and complexity for various audiences.
- Bring their English studies skills into engagement with regional, national and/or international issues.
- Present or otherwise disseminate their work in a public forum.

TEXTBOOKS:

Oryx and Crake, Atwood – this was your summer reading. You have it now in case you want to review it.

The Year of the Flood, Atwood

The Sum of Us, Heather McGhee

Maus I & II, Art Spiegelman

Hand to Mouth. Linda Tirado

Writer/Designer,

Various other articles, uploaded to D2L

Video of *Between the World and Me*

UNIVERSITY COVID STATEMENT: The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. EIU's policy is intended to protect all of us on campus, as well as the community, your roommates, and loved ones at home. All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class. Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations. Students should not attend class if they are ill and should consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19-like symptoms. EIU's COVID-19 campus practices including face coverings, when and where required, avoiding campus if sick, sanitizing surfaces, social distancing, and hand washing all of which are based on the best available public health guidance. Everyone in the campus community is responsible for following practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom

accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability Services (studentdisability@eiu.edu or 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [<https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>]. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

Disability Services: If you have a *documented* disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. I will ensure you are accorded all the aid you require.

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee 1301.

Tech Support: If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

POLICIES:

Written Assignments: This is a writing course. For that reason, you must complete ALL written assignments listed below in order to pass; even if you could *mathematically* get a passing grade without turning in a shorter assignment, you must turn it in or you will not pass. For each major writing assignment, you will receive a formal assignment sheet; we will discuss these assignments in-depth in class before they are due so you will always know what is expected of you.

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

Office Hours: I will require you to come to see me in my office once during the semester (see syllabus), but I encourage you to come see me whenever you like. Come to ask questions, discuss problems or just to chat. The hours listed above are times when I will definitely be in my office ready to meet with students but I am available at other times as well, so you can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. We can also easily set up Zoom meetings.

Electronic Writing Portfolio: Your final research essay is ideal for the EWP; the other assignments for this course are not sufficient. If you wish to include your research essay in your EWP, remember that you **MUST** turn it in by the end of the semester. See me if you would like some help in doing this.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Intended for students in their junior year of study, this seminar emphasizes research and writing skills and their applicability in academic and nonacademic contexts. Topics vary each semester but will cohere around considerations of the role of English studies in public discourse and culture. Required of English majors.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN:

- Writing to Incite to Action: Letter to editor 10%
- Writing to Inform: Blog Post 20%
- Writing to Entertain & Inform: Researched fiction/creative nonfiction 20%
- Writing to Inform & Persuade: Research essay 30%
- Writing in the World: Public Project 15%
- Public Project Presentation 5%

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

August	23 M	Introduction	
	25 W	Rodriguez, "You Shouldn't Write off English Majors" & Berman, "English Majors," & Meyers, "Feeding Majors" (D2L)	
	27 F	Tirado, Intro, Chaps. 1-3,	Letter to the Editor assigned
	30 M	Tirado, Chaps. 4-7	
Sept.	1 W	Ezra Klein article (D2L)	
	3 F	Tirado, Chaps. 8-10, Afterword	Letter to Editor due, Blog Post Assigned
	6 M	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	
	8 W	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 1-100	
	10 F	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 101-140	
	13 M	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 141-200,	In-class Blog Post Peer review
	15 W	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 200-239	
	17 F	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 240-284	Blog Post due
	20 M	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp.285-350	Researched Creative Essay assigned
	22 W	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 350-386	
	24 F	<i>The Year of the Flood</i> , pp. 386-end	

	27 M	Margaret Atwood article, (D2L)	
	29 W	McGhee, Chaps. 1-2	
Oct.	1 F	McGhee, Chap. 3	
	4 M	McGhee, Chaps 4-5	
	6 W	McGhee, Chap. 6	
	8 F	McGhee, Chap. 7	Online Creative Essay peer review due
	11 M	McGhee, Chaps. 8-9	
	13 W	McGhee, Chap. 10	Creative Essay due
	15 F	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
	18 M	Research Essay Assigned	
	20 W	Morrison, “Making America White Again” (D2L)	
	22 F	Video: Between the World and Me	
	25 M	Maus I	
	27 W	Maus I	
	29 F	Maus I	
Nov.	1 M	Maus II	
	3 W	Maus II	
	5 F	Maus II, <i>Writer/Designer</i> , Chap. 1	
	8 M	<i>Writer/Designer</i> , Chaps. 2-3	
	10 W	<i>Writer/Designer</i> , Chap. 4-5	
	12 F	<i>Writer/Designer</i> , Chap. 6-7	Public Project Assigned
	15 M	Individual Conferences	
	17 W	Individual Conferences	
	19 F	Individual Conferences,	Research Essay Online Peer Review due

THANKSGIVING BREAK

	29 M	In-class Public Project Workshop	
Dec.	1 W	In-class Public Project Workshop	
	3 F	Research Essay Essay due	
	6 M	Public Project Presentations	
	8 W	Public Project Presentations	
	10 F	Public Project Presentations	
	Tuesday, December 14, 10:15am-12:15pm	Public Projects due	