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ENG 3002-001: Research Writing in Literary Studies

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English 3002.001 ~ Research Writing in Literary Studies ~ Spring 2010 ~

Professor Randy Beebe
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Office Hours: T, 9:30-11:00; W, 9-10:30;
R, 9:30-11:00 & by appointment

Texts/ Materials

- *"They Say / I Say": The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. 2006.
- *Possession*. A. S. Byatt. 1990.
- *Persuasion*. Jane Austen. 1818.
- Supplementary reading material.

Course Description

This advanced course is designed for English majors who want to learn more about (1) planning and conducting effective research; (2) discussing, reviewing, and analyzing scholarly writing on literature and film; and (3) writing their own proposals, reviews, articles, and related academic forms. Research writing in literary studies always begins with immersion in a specialized area of study, and, to that purpose, we will spend the first part of the course understanding and developing a specialization. We will then practice writing some of the staples of academic research – such as reviews, bibliographies, and critical essays – as we move on to practice more advanced forms of writing like the bibliographic essay, biography, and grant proposals.

Course Requirements

Class meetings will consist of a mixture of discussion-oriented sessions, in-class group work, and peer review sessions. When necessary, we will also use class time for individual or group conferences. You are encouraged – and to a large extent expected – to meet often with me to go over your work and discuss your writing progress.

There will be six major writing projects and several minor or brief writings (some of which will work in conjunction with the major writing projects and some will be isolated tasks). Please note the participation grade, which consists of your contribution to class discussion, your participation in and preparation for group activities, and your attendance.

1. Writing Projects	170 points
• Profile of Academic Writing	20 points
• Critical Response	20 points
• Scholarly Editing/Biography	30 points

**Course
Requirements**

• Bibliographic Essay	30 points
• Book Review	30 points
• Grant Proposal	40 points
2. In-Class Writing & Brief Writings	50 points (approx.)
3. Participation (based on your attendance, involvement in and preparation for class activities and discussion)	30 points
Total:	250 points

Grading Scale:

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

Below 59% = F

Note: The order and exact schedule for the writing projects may change as I assess the class's writing needs.

Evaluation

For each writing project, I will handout an assignment sheet that specifies the requirements, due date, and expectations or grading criteria. Usually the grading criteria will emphasize particular concepts that we will be discussing in class for that assignment. Therefore, it's important that you study the assignment sheet and confer with me if you have any questions.

**Submitting
Assignments**

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due on the date specified on the assignment sheet. Papers turned in after the due date will be penalized five points for each calendar day they are late – unless you have made prior arrangements with me. I will not accept work that is more than one week late.

Although I encourage you to turn in your projects in class on the due date, you have until 4:00 p.m. on the due date to turn in your work (either to me or in my mailbox, 3155 Coleman Hall). In other words, I want you to be in class on that day regardless of the status of your work.

Note: In most cases, you may email me your assignments, although I would prefer that you discuss this with me ahead of time. If you do submit via email, please send your papers as attachments (preferably as a RTF file). Also, bear in mind that when you submit an electronic document, you are entirely responsible for the format of the documents.

Revisions

I encourage revision; however, you must speak with me before you submit the revision (so we can arrange a conference to discuss writing strategies), and you must turn in the revision within seven days of receiving the final paper back from me. Keep in mind, too, that unless you make substantial

and significant changes to your revision, you will likely receive the same grade. Therefore, when we meet to discuss your paper, we'll establish a clear understanding of what you need to do to improve your document.

***Attendance
Policy***

It is vital that you are in class all the time. I usually allow two absences or personal days. After that (on the third unexcused absence), your final grade will be deducted one full letter grade. If you miss more than 5 classes, you will receive an F for the course. No absence can be designated "excused" until documentation has been provided and verified, which must be done in person within one week of the date in question.

Plagiarism

Since the university is a place of ideas, discussion, and reflection, it views plagiarism – the taking of others' ideas as one's own – very harshly. The penalty for plagiarizing is swift and severe. You will receive an immediate F for the course and notice will be given to the Office of Student Conduct. If you have any questions about plagiarism – however small – please talk to me before you turn in your work.

***Electronic
Writing
Portfolio***

This course is a writing-centered course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. If you plan on using work from this course for your EWP, I ask that you complete this before the last two weeks of the semester.

Conferences

If you are having any problems with a paper, I encourage you to come by and see me during my office hours or make an appointment for a more convenient time. I will be more than happy to talk any number of times about a single paper or particular writing problem.

You may email me (rlbeebe@eiu.edu) to set up a time to meet to discuss your work. However, I will not discuss your paper with you via email. I would prefer we talk about your work in person – either before or after class or during a conference in my office.

***Computer &
Classroom
Etiquette***

You're welcome to bring your notebook computer to class. However, I ask that you observe common rules of etiquette and decorum when you use it. In brief, you may use it to take notes or complete an in-class writing activity. You may not use it for anything not directly related to class work.

**** Please turn off (or mute) cell phones or any other PDA. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, absolutely no text messaging during class is allowed.**

***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.

***Reading
Schedule***

During the second week of class, I will hand out a reading schedule for the semester, which will include approximate due dates of the major writing projects.