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ENG 1001-002-004-008: Composition and Language

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ENGLISH 1001G, Spring 2007

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Course Summary

English 1001G is a “writing-centered” course in which we’ll explore the qualities of language and effective writing. Since revision is essential to all good writing, we’ll focus on the process of writing, taking essays from preliminary ideas to more-developed drafts. The course will include both reading and written assignments, discussion and peer evaluation, and individual conferences to guide you through the completion of three essays. Grammar and punctuation will be reviewed as the need arises. Note: Students who have an ACT score in English of 14 or below, or who have no test scores on file with the university, must pass English 1000 before enrolling in English 1001G.

Texts

The Norton Reader
The Blair Handbook, 4th Edition
Beyond Words
Webster’s New World Dictionary

Materials You’ll Need

Notebook(s) for in-class writing and notes
Two pocket folders: one for keeping handouts, your work, etc., one for submitting work

Course Requirements

You will write three computer-generated papers in MLA format, as well as three peer evaluations and two self-commentaries. You will also participate in class discussion and exercises and attend individual conferences during the writing process.
Attendance and Engagement

Regular attendance is important, and I will give you a NC for the course should your absences reach seven days (including missed conferences), no matter what the reason. (If you need to be absent from class because of school sports, please let me know early in the semester and provide documentation.) For each half of the class, a point score will be given for “engagement.” These points will be based not only on timely attendance and paying attention (in both class and conferences) but also on your involvement in class discussion and exercises and on the overall thoroughness of your work. These points can make the difference in your final grade!

Peer Evaluations

Please be on time for peer evaluations, ready with your printed draft in hand. Should you arrive after papers have been distributed, you will forfeit the evaluation points as well as the help of your fellow writer.

Conferences

This class will incorporate individual conferences in my office, during which your scored first draft will be returned to you and we’ll discuss the necessary revisions for your second draft. During conference time, regular class will not meet. Should you need to reschedule your conference time, please do so beforehand. Missed conferences will not be rescheduled without a valid, documented medical reason.

Grading

For each paper, you will complete two drafts, each receiving a point score; the final score for the paper will be an average of these points. (NOTE: All second drafts must be submitted in a pocket folder that also includes your first draft and the highlighted revision guidelines we will have discussed in conference.)

Overall points for the course will be assigned as follows:

Paper 1: 15 points; Paper 2: 25 points; Paper 3: 20 points
First self-commentary: 3 points; Final self-commentary: 3 points
Peer evaluations (3): 4 points each
Conferences (3): 4 points each
Engagement: 10 points total

Therefore, your final course grade will be based on a 100-point scale:

90 to 100 = A; 80 to 89 = B; 70 to 79 = C; 69 and below = NC (no credit)
**Late Work**

I do not accept late work; points will only be assigned for work that is turned in on or before the due date. However, if you have an excused, unavoidable absence due to illness or emergency (you must provide documentation), I will allow you to make up the work you’ve missed.

**Plagiarism**

Your work is expected to be your own, and I’ll question any writing that does not seem to be “in your own voice.” The English Department’s statement on plagiarism: 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 assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

**Special Needs**

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.

**Writing Center**

The Writing Center, at 301 Coleman Hall, is there to help you with all aspects of your writing. Occasionally, I may refer you to the Writing Center if you are having trouble with a particular essay or you need additional help with grammar, punctuation, etc. But feel free to stop by the center on your own.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP)**

All students must submit a document from a writing-centered course (1001G or 1002G) as part of their Electronic Writing Portfolio, a university requirement for graduation. Although the submission is your responsibility, I’ll help you choose an essay and assist you in the submission process as best I can. The website for EWP information and submission form is www.eiu.edu/~assess.
Tentative Schedule (to come)

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR 1001G
KEEP TRACK OF YOUR GRADE

Paper 1 (15 points): Draft 1 _____ Draft 2 _____ Final Score (avg.) _____

Paper 2 (25 points): Draft 1 _____ Draft 2 _____ Final Score (avg.) _____

Paper 3 (20 points): Draft 1 _____ Draft 2 _____ Final Score (avg.) _____

First self-commentary (3 points): _____

Final self-commentary (3 points): _____

Peer evaluations (4 points each): #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

Conferences (4 points each): #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

“Engagement” (10 points total): 1st half _____ 2nd half _____