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ENG 3001-051: Advanced Composition

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Course Objectives, Design, and Method: This course seeks to develop the kinds of research skills and writing techniques utilized by professional writers in general and professional writers within your academic field in particular. The course is designed to focus both on independent research writing and on group production/creation. For success in this course you must be willing to work on your own and in collaboration with other students without constant teacher intervention. You will largely be working on your own and with an assigned writing group. In the course of the semester you should learn 1) how to give and receive constructive criticism to improve your writing, 2) how to work independently and collaboratively in order to meet a deadline, 3) how to employ research processes effectively, and 4) how to revise to improve the effectiveness of your writing. During the term you will be expected to:

1. plan two short research projects, the first of which will be an independent effort based on your interests in your field of study, and the second of which will be a group project exploring a topic of shared interest in your writing group. Both projects will require preliminary essays in the form of detailed project proposals;

2. join your writing group in presenting your progress and soliciting critical feedback from the whole class.

4. present with your writing group one class workshop on some particular aspect of writing or research.

5. turn in two 6-8 page researched pieces of writing, one on Thursday, May 25, and one on Friday, June 9.

If you think that you cannot meet these requirements, or if you prefer an advanced composition class designed with no emphasis on collaborative, you should consider taking English 3001 at another time or with another instructor.

Policies: English 1002C is a prerequisite of this course.
I don't mind if you use the paper(s) you write for this course to fulfill other course requirements, but I suggest you inform me and the other instructor that you plan to do so.

Attendance is mandatory. If you have more than three (3) unexcused absences from class this semester, your course grade will drop a full letter grade. It is your responsibility to provide acceptable and prompt documentation of emergencies within one week of your return to class. If you know you will not attend, let me know before class.

Final papers must be turned in on time. No exceptions.

All drafts must be typed and/or accessible on diskette or E-Mail Attachment.

Please make copies for your own use of all the material that you turn in to me. Remember to make backup copies of all electronic material and when working in the ETIC, to save to your jump drive.

You may use the style of documentation appropriate for your field of study when the topic and the audience you decide to write for merits this style.

There is no final examination for this course. Your course grade will be averaged from grades in the following areas, each of which will count equally: 1) two project proposals, 2) independent writing project, 3) group research writing project, 4) individual performance in group project, 5) group workshop presentation. The final grade may be adjusted up or down on the basis of your attendance, participation, and progress. Equitable grading of collaborative projects will be discussed and decided upon by writing groups.

English Department 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' -- 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."

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.
3.

May 17: GROUP WORKSHOP: Locating and evaluating sources
Proposal drafting

May 18: DUE: PROPOSAL FOR FIRST PAPER
GROUP WORKSHOP: Incorporating and documenting source material
READING: Sample opening sections

Week 2
May 22: GROUP WORKSHOP: Effective opening sections
Paper drafting

May 23: GROUP WORKSHOP: Effective titles
DUE: Possible paper titles
Paper drafting

May 24: GROUP WORKSHOP: Wordiness
Class critique of paper drafts

May 25: DUE: PAPER NUMBER ONE
Topic selection for collaborative paper

Week 3
May 29: Memorial day
May 30: DUE: Opening proposal paragraph and tentative table of contents
May 31: DUE: Partial or full proposal drafts plus bibliography
June 1: DUE: PROPOSAL FOR COLLABORATIVE PAPER
Tentative opening section for paper

Week 4
June 5: GROUP WORKSHOP: Constructing effective sentences/ the importance of punctuation
June 6: Class critique of drafts
June 7: Class critique of drafts
June 8: Final drafting and editing
June 9: DUE: COLLABORATIVE PAPER AND GROUP EVALUATIONS

Paper Topic Proposals

The paper topic proposals due on 5/18 and on 6/1 should be carefully written essays in two parts. In the first part, describe as clearly as you can your research topic. You should have narrowed your topic to a manageable level of specificity by this time, and I will expect your opening statement to demonstrate both your early background reading and careful thinking about the topic. Please take the time to develop your ideas in as much detail as possible at this point in your search. Define specialized terms. Direct your proposal to a general audience outside your specific field of study -- perhaps this will be me and/or the people in your writing group. Provide necessary background information. Correctly cite authorities and/or sources you have used to develop your thinking on the topic and describe the sort of research materials you see yourself working with in order to complete this project. At some point in this section of the proposal, formulate your topic as a series of open-ended questions that you hope to answer during the course of your research project.
In the second section of the proposal, explain your personal connection to the topic. How will finding out answers to your questions benefit you? How will they benefit someone else -- your audience? Again, demonstrate that you have given the issues involved careful consideration.

Remember as you work on this proposal that you are at an early stage of your research project and that your thinking about the topic should change as you progress. Don't use this proposal as a platform for preconceived notions; write in as objective a tone as you can assume; be prepared to revise your position/thinking on the subject as your project progresses and you become more informed.

**NOTE:** The proposal for the collaborative project will basically follow the same guidelines but with further sections about the logistics of work assignments and timetables added at the time of that assignment. The collaborative project proposal should clearly describe the division of labor involved - who will be responsible for what. It should also establish a tentative timetable so that group members can be held to the completion of the steps of the project by reasonable dates.