ENG 1001G-003-023: Composition and Language

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ENG 1001G – Fall 2002

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Texts

*The St. Martin's Guide to Writing* – Axelrod/Cooper
*The Bedford Reader* – Kennedy/Kennedy/Aaron
*The Blair Handbook* – Fulwiler/Hayakawa
*English Online* – Harnack/Kleppinger

Course Objectives

Welcome to the ETIC (English Technology-Integrated Classrooms). English 1001G is a writing-centered course that integrates the latest technology into the writing process. Together I hope we can learn the best ways to use the computer technology to improve our writing skills.

First and foremost, please remember that this is a composition course. Our goals are to produce effective, competent essays, and we'll do that with the aid of lots of great resources and technology. This course will focus on various modes of writing, paying particular attention to revision and peer editing methods. We will be focusing most of our attention on the role revision plays in the writing process by doing conferences during various stages of the writing process.

I'm not the computer expert; I just play one in Coleman Hall. I thoroughly intend to learn as much, if not more, than you do about what these computers can do. This is truly going to be a team effort. I hope those with more computer skills will help out those of us who still call computers "thingamajigs."

This semester we're going to try a whole new approach, at least for me, to the writing process. The first week we will discuss topics that you find compelling – anything from issues of higher education, race or media. You'll commit to a topic and research it. Your goals are to write four essays and subsequent revisions generated from your ideas and research. Once you've decided on an area of research, you'll propose essay topics and together we'll work through the writing process.

Stuff You'll Need

You must have two formatted 3.5-inch computer disks. These computers will "read" double sided or high-density disks, so choose the type that is compatible with your computer. If you have no preference, get high density. You should have a folder to hold and keep all aspects of your writing.

Class Policy

You will contract for the grade you want to receive in this course. Since our focus is on rewriting, not just fixing errors, each letter grade has a different requirement on the number of essays that must be revised. You must write a first draft for each assigned essay. From there you will determine which essays you want to revise. Your essays will receive written and verbal comments from me on all stages of your writing, but your letter grade has already been determined by your signed contract. If you do not fulfill the specifications of the letter grade for which you contracted, you will drop to the grade whose requirements you have fulfilled.
Attendance

Regular attendance is essential. I do not want to be your mother, nurse, or your confessor; this means that I don’t want to determine what is excused or unexcused. You can have four personal days for the semester. If you miss a day, it is your responsibility to ask the next class period about making up missed work. If you do not ask the next class period, you cannot make up the assignment. A scheduled EIU function—i.e. sports or academic club-sponsored event is not counted as a personal day, but I must be notified a class period before the event, and you are responsible for making up missed assignments immediately after such an event. You must write a first draft for each assigned essay. From there you will determine which essays you want to revise. Serious or prolonged illness or personal problems will be looked at on an individual basis and could be dealt with by dropping the course or receiving an incomplete if you meet catalogue requirements. If you miss more than four personal days, you will receive an NC for the course.

Disabilities

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.

Contract Terms

For an A
1. You must meet course attendance requirements (see attendance policy).
2. All drafts and rewrites must meet with the specifications of the assignment, and each must conform to the basic writing requirements (see handout Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments in EIU’s English Department).
3. You must rewrite all four essays.
4. You must attend both conferences and all writing workshops.
5. You must submit all five reading responses.
6. You must score at least an 80% on your MLA quiz.

B
1. Same as for an A.
2. Same as A.
3. You must rewrite three out of four essays.
4. Same as for an A.
5. You must submit four out of five reading responses.
6. You must score at least a 75% on your MLA quiz.

C
1. Same as for A and B.
2. Same as for A and B.
3. You must rewrite two out of four essays.
4. You must attend one conference and one writing workshop.
5. You must submit three out of five reading responses.
6. You must score at least a 70% on your MLA quiz.

This is an A, B, C, NC course. If you do not fulfill the minimum requirements for a C contract, you will receive an NC and have to retake the course.

I will keep records of your rewrites, attendance in class and workshops, and your reading responses. I have given you a sheet, at the end of this syllabus, for keeping track of your progress—please keep a close record of your work. I will cheerfully remind you throughout the semester about your progress towards fulfilling your contract (see attached contract).
As your instructor, I have the right to decide if a rewrite is complete and in compliance with the topic. You may need to rewrite several times to fulfill your contract. A cover letter discussing your revisions must accompany each new revision. If you have contracted for an A but your revisions contain serious errors, I have the right to not accept a revision as sufficient and subsequently drop you down to the next contracted grade. Before this happens, I will discuss your options.

We will spend considerable time discussing just what a rewrite or revision is. As we go through the semester, the process will become clearer as you move toward your goal of fulfilling your contract.

**Plagiarism**

Note: The English department’s statement concerning plagiarism.

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—“The appropriation or imitation of 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, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Course Work**

Weeks 1-2  Course Introduction, Voice Diagnostic Writing and Focusing on Purpose, Audience and Voice – Blair Handbook p. 57-67

Weeks 3-4  Conducting Research and Arguing Positions

Week 5  Writing Workshop – Work on proposals and first drafts of first essay

Week 6  Documenting Sources: MLA Style – Blair p. 237-251

Week 7  MLA Quiz – Sentence Structures and Paragraphs – Blair p. 363-422

Week 8  Writing Workshops for second essay and revisions

Week 9  Conferences – Must have drafts and revisions of first two essays

Week 10  Editing Grammar and Punctuation – Bring Blair Handbook

Week 11  Writing Workshop for third essay and revisions

Week 12  Focused Revising – Blair p. 323-334

Weeks 13-14  Writing Workshop Proposals for fourth essay and work on drafts and revisions

Week 15  Conferences

Week 16  Discussion of writing and revision process – checking contracts
Contract

I, ____________________________, am contracting for a letter grade of ________ for Eng 1001G Fall 2002. I have read the contract requirements and understand them and the syllabus.

Signed

_________________________________________
# Grade Sheet

Grade Contracted

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<tr>
<th>Paper 1</th>
<th>Revised</th>
<th>Not Revised</th>
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Reading Responses – Circle number completed

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Conferences attended

MLA Quiz Score