English 1001 is the first of a two-course sequence in writing. This semester we will practice some important modes of writing (description, analysis, narrative, comparison/contrast, persuasion, argumentation) in a *semiotic* context. Semiotics is the study of signs, the science of a contemporary world in which we are constantly asked to ‘read’ visual images as well as more traditional texts. This course thus aims both to improve your reading and writing skills and to deepen your understanding of the ways meaning is made in our world.

**Procedures**

You will write an average of 500 words a week on the photographs in our album, adjusting your point of view according to the objectives of the assignment. Typically, Mondays and Wednesdays of a given week will be devoted to discussion of a photograph and the issues it raises. Fridays will focus on short readings (to be announced each Wednesday) deriving from our discussions.

We will regularly write in class, so please come prepared with appropriate materials. When asked, please bring hard copies of assignments in progress.

Use MS Word’s default margins (t/b, 1”; l/r, 1.25”) for your work and use a 12 pt. font. Double-space. Do not use a cover page. Put your name and the title of your work at the top of the first page. Do not number the first page, but number subsequent ones in the upper right-hand corner.

*Every Friday, you must email me (jpmartone@eiu.edu) that week’s writing assignment in the format just described.*

The subject line of your email must read: 1001 your/lastname mon/day

Send your work as an attached .doc file. The filename should read your/lastname mon/day

Create a folder titled yourlastname portfolio on your computer/flash-drive to hold all your work. Keep a copy of every assignment in this folder.

You should have 5 pieces for your conference on the week of September 24.

You should have at least 2 additional pieces for your conference the week of October 22

You should have at least 3 additional pieces in your folder at the end of the semester.

**Evaluation**

English 1001 is an ABC/NC course. You must earn a grade of C or better to receive credit.

All assignments will be equally weighted and graded on a 4-point scale (A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; F=0).

You will revise *at least* one assignment in this class. Grades for revised work will replace original grades.

Your final grade will also reflect class participation (as reflected by your performance in our discussions and on reading quizzes).

**Academic Honesty**

The English Department requires the reading of the following statement in all freshman writing classes:

*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 assignments 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.

For further discussion of ethics in the writing class, consult the department’s Field Guide to Writing at EIU (http://www.eiu.edu/~english/student/documents/Field_Guide_to_Writing_2006.pdf).

Schedule

Week of...

August
20 Introductions, Topic: Lange, Migrant Mother. (description, analysis)
27 Topic: Lange, White Angel Breadline (description, analysis)

September
10 Cindy Sherman, Untitled Film Stills (narrative)
17 Cindy Sherman, Untitled Film Stills (narrative)
24 Conferences

October
1 Kim Phan Thi (historical narrative, evidence)
8 [midterm, no class October 12] Revision
15 Elizabeth Eckford, Emmett Till (historical narrative, evidence)
22 Conferences
29 TV commercials (persuasion)

November
5 Carl De Keyzer/ Diane Arbus (comparison/contrast)
12 Diane Arbus (multiple images); Evans/ Van Gogh; or Pollock/Gordon (comparison/contrast)
19 Thanksgiving Recess
26 Weston, Duane Michals (argumentation)

December
3 Revision. Conclusions.