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ENG 3001-001: Advanced Composition

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English 3001 Section 001: Advanced Composition

Course description: After an intensive review of grammar and mechanics, this course will focus on selecting more precise diction, shaping stronger sentences, building better paragraphs, and writing more convincing essays than often mark merely competent writing. We shall explore the use and construction of several rhetorical forms common to academic and professional writing, but our emphasis will be on analysis, persuasion and argument specific to the students' repertoires in their respective disciplines. We shall work with generating and developing ideas, revision strategies and editing skills, including documentation.

Course requirements: These will consist of four essays of varying lengths (20% each, including multiple drafts and the final revisions, for 80%) as well as participation (20%)-consisting of discussion, quizzes and written responses to reading and exercise assignments.

Course format: We shall proceed with lecture and discussion, with much more of the latter, especially in consideration of homework responses. We shall seek to produce a long document, a “position paper,” in which each student will participate and contribute in developing from the context of the student’s major or principal interest. The topic here will be generated from students; researched, developed, revised and edited by students; and presented, time permitting, to each other.

Course texts:


Students should also have or have access to a dictionary and a handbook (any edition or publisher will suffice) in hardcopy or online.

Prerequisite and Electronic Writing Portfolio Submissions: Students must have completed English 1002G or its equivalent before enrolling in ENG 3001, a “writing centered” course. Sophomores, juniors and seniors may elect to submit an essay from ENG 3001 to their Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). This university requirement means that you may need to submit an essay from this course for your EWP. If so, you must inform me no later than the last week of class—EWP submissions are not accepted after completion of the course, and you are responsible for consulting the web site of Center for Academic Support and Achievement for instructions. See http://www.eiu/~assess for more information.
General Policies:

Grading Standards: I shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. In all cases, I shall use a plus and minus system to distinguish, say, a high B from a low one.

Attendance: I do take roll, and I evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course.

Conferences: These are at your request unless I ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last couple of weeks of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, and course and section number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an A essay due on Thursday will be an F by the next Thursday. If there are particular difficulties, please see me.

Plagiarism:

If you do consult secondary sources, be sure to list them in your bibliography. If you use ideas from secondary sources, be sure to indicate this by supplying your reference using MLA format.

A summary guide to MLA formatting is available at:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html

The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the representation of them as one's own 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.

If I discover an act of plagiarism, I shall exercise the right to the fullest extent possible. (See http://www.eiu/-judicial/code.html for more information.)

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 Student Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
June
M 11: Course introduction
T 12: Hall, Chapter 1: Exercises 10-12 [Assignments should be completed by the day on which they are listed; these are due today.]
   Brainstorming "position paper" topics...
W 13: Hall, Chapter 2: Exercise 1 & 2
R 14: Truss, “Introduction: The Seventh Sense” (1-34)
       Essay #1 assigned: Expression, reflection and narration
F 15: Truss, “The Tractable Apostrophe” (35-67)
       Revisiting "position paper" topics...

M 18: Hall, Chapter 3; Chap 4 (to p 89)
       Selecting and defining "position paper" topics...
T 19: Hall, Chapter 4 (89-125)
W 20: Truss, “That’ll Do, Comma” (68-102)
       Essay #1 DUE
R 21: Tufte, Chapter 1
       Essay #2 assigned: Description and analysis
F 22: Tufte, Chapter 2

M 25: Hall, Chapter 5 (126-161)
       Outlining and shaping "position paper" topics...
T 26: Hall, Chapter 5 (161-182)
       Collaboration and group assignments for "position paper" topics...
W 27: Tufte, Chapters 3 and 4
       Essay #2 DUE
R 28: Tufte, Chapters 5 and 6
F 29: No class–research assignment for "position paper" topics...

July
M 2: Hall, Chapter 6
T 3: Hall, Chapter 7
       Essay #3 assigned: Persuasion
W 4: No class–Independence Day
R 5: Truss, “Airs and Graces” and “Cutting a Dash” (103-167)
F 6: Tufte, Chapters 7 and 8

M 9: Tufte, Chapters 9 and 10
T 10: Tufte, Chapters 11 and 12
W 11: Hall, Chapter 8
       Essay #3 Due
R 12: Tufte, Chapters 13 and 14
       Essay #4 assigned: Argument
F 14: Truss, “A Little Used Punctuation Mark” and “Merely Conventional Signs” (168-204)
Michael Loudon
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Phone: 581-6312

Office Hours:
M 12:30-1:30; T-F 10-11
or by appointment
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English 3001.001: Advanced Composition–Course Syllabus (Revised)

July
M 2: Hall, Chapter 6
T 3: Hall, Chapter 7
   Essay #3 assigned: Argument
W 4: No class–Independence Day
R 5: Hall, Chapter 7: Logical fallacies (236-247)
F 6: Hall, Chapter 7: 248-250, exercise 9, a and b for discussion
   Working bibliographies due

M 9: Hall, Chapter 8
T 10: Truss, "Airs and Graces" and "Cutting a Dash" (103-167)
W 11: Hall, Chapter 9: read and re-read; submit heuristic analysis of
   five most prevalent error patterns in your writing with specific
   pages in Hall to address them
   For class discussion: Truss, "A Little Used Punctuation Mark" and
   "Merely Conventional Signs" (168-204)
   Essay #3 Due
R 12: Tufte, Chapters 7 and 8
   Essay #4 assigned: Persuasion
F 14: Tufte, Chapters 9 and 10

M 16: Tufte, Chapters 11 and 12
T 17: Tufte, Chapters 13 and 14
W 18: Peer editing and collaboration; transitions for collaboration
   Essay #4 Due
R 19: Review and editing of project
F 20: (continued, if necessary) Evaluations