ENG 1001G-011-030-047: Composition and Language

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Course Objectives:
To improve your critical thinking, writing, editing and revising skills
To examine and comment upon academic style texts
To practice academic research and attribution of sources using MLA style
To foster awareness of effective use of language and methods of writing

Course Policies:
You are responsible for completing all assignments by the deadline, and participating in class discussion and group activities. Work done in class cannot be made up. Alternative assignments will be offered for a maximum of two excused absences, which require documentation from the following list:
- A signed doctor's excuse for the date in question
- A memo from a coach or faculty member showing that you were involved in a university sponsored sports or academic activity
- A card from a funeral on the date of the absence
These alternative assignments will have strict due dates.

In addition to discussion, group work, and writings done in class, the participation grade will include my assessment of responses to your essays from the texts, and brief writings on assigned topics. Keep these in a simple two-pocket folder. Use a one-subject notebook: 70 - 100 pages for class notes, which may be randomly collected. A personal preference not to take notes does not excuse you from this component of the grade.

Guidelines for Journal Entries (on readings from texts)
Read the essay all the way through to get the full meaning/effect, then considering the following questions on a second reading. These give you ideas about what to look for; in addition, you are encouraged to also respond in a personal way.

1. What overall point is the writer trying to make?
2. What kind of attitude does the writer convey? What attitude does the essay provoke in you personally?
3. What new insights on the topic do you get from reading this essay?
4. What did you find admirable/annoying about the writer's ideas?
5. Why do you agree/disagree with the writer's point? What is there in your personal experience that parallels/differs from the experience shown in the essay?
6. How is the essay structured? What techniques does the writer use to get attention, clarify, elaborate and organize? How are transitions created?
7. Comment on the writer's use of language.

Manuscript Form:
Assignments completed outside of class must be typed and double-spaced throughout. Put your first and last name in the upper right corner. Center your title using the same font as the rest of the essay. On subsequent pages use a running head of your last
Grade Determination:
Grading will be based on the standard rubric of the EIU English Dept., which is admittedly subjective. If you believe a grade you receive is lower than you deserve, your recourse is to submit an explanation of why you think you have been misjudged. Refer to standards from the department rubric and demonstrate specifically why your essay should be scored higher in relationship to these standards. I will reconsider, but not necessarily change your score.

Assignments are weighted as follows:
- Narrative/Revision Unit 25%
- Definition/Pre-Writing Unit 25%
- Analysis/Research Unit 30%
- Participation 20% (Discussion/groups/response journal)

For your final grade: 90-100=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, Below 70=NC

Policy on Plagiarism:
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines plagiarism as "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's own original work." Plagiarism is cheating. If you turn in another person's work or material cut and pasted from the Internet, you will achieve an F for the course. You will be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office, and the incident will become a part of your academic record.

Disabilities:
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, you must contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583.

Texts:
Ruszkiewicz, John, et al. Beyond Words. (BW)
Silverman, Jonathon and Dean Rader. The World Is A Text. (TWT)
(When we are discussing an essay from one of the texts, you must bring it to class. Failure to do so will result in a deduction from your class participation points.)

Course Schedule:
(Subject to alterations announced in class)
Aug 21 Intro/ discussion of language & composition
Aug 23 Discuss "How Do I Write a Text for College?" TWT 20-1
DUE: Journal entry using guidelines above

Aug 28 Brainstorming fairy tales
DUE: Journal entry about a fairytale you particularly like or loath
Aug 30 Discussion of narrative/descriptive techniques

Sept 4 Discussion of "America's Cinderella" TWT 441-6
DUE: Journal entry