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ENG 1001G-020: Composition and Language

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Course Description
English 1001G is a reading and writing course designed to enhance critical reading, thinking and communication skills. The written word rules here. We will examine how good writing looks (grammar), how it sounds (style), and where it goes (audience-oriented rhetoric). Over the course of the semester, you will produce essays through stages of brainstorming, drafting, and fleshing out theses. You will not do this alone: this is a workshop course, which means that, much as in the world outside the university, you will be writing for an audience larger than your professor. You will receive and offer feedback on fellow students' work. In these feedback loops, you will be encouraged to keep an eye on your own growth as a writer of clear, effective, persuasive, and citation-savvy arguments.

Note: This is a writing-centered, writing-intensive course. You will do a lot of writing and responding. If you foresee difficulty in attending class regularly this semester, you should reconsider taking this course.

Texts


Course reader is available at Copy X, 219 Lincoln Avenue.

Requirements
The primary aim of this course is to help you to become a sharper, more persuasive, and more self-reflective writer. Now that you are writing at the university level, you should become better able to:

- know your audience, and to write persuasively for different audiences and purposes;
- reflect upon your own beliefs and consider the viewpoints and arguments of others;
- use different genres of discourse; in defending a position, what mode of argument will you use, for example? Narrating, explaining, analyzing, defining, interpreting, arguing, and using evidence or examples?
- incorporate outside sources of ideas and information; this means expanding beyond your personal experience and engaging with the arguments published by others;
- revise, revise, revise your writing;
- copy-edit your drafts so that they are grammatically sound and readable;
- offer insightful readings of other writers' drafts.
You will write many short papers and two longer essays, each with a revision process, including peer-editing. As I get to know your writing better throughout the semester, I will require that you meet with me on an individual basis. In these conferences, we will discuss where you think your writing and critical skills are improving or need more work.

In this writing-intensive course, shorter papers will be graded on a scale of $\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{\cdot}$, $\sqrt{-}$, $\sqrt{=}$ . You will not be able to make up missed in-class assignments. Work that is strongly engaged and on-topic will receive a $\sqrt{+}$. Satisfactory work that is on-topic will receive a $\sqrt{\cdot}$ . Work that shows little engagement or is off-topic will get a $\sqrt{-}$ or a $\sqrt{=}$. Participation is absolutely necessary and is more than simply being present in class. It means being prepared, thoughtful, respectful of others, engaged, and fruitfully open to criticism.

**Grades**

Grammar Exam (10%)
Essay 1 (20%)
Essay 2 (20%)
Response Papers (20%)
Group exercises, in-class and take-home writing assignments, and reading quizzes (20%)
Participation (10%)

**Academic honesty:** Students are responsible for knowing Eastern Illinois University regulations and policies regarding academic honesty. Plagiarism will likely result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. Here is the English Department's 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 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 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.

**Paper Policies**

Papers—and all other assignments—are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be commented upon, and be marked a half grade lower for every class period late. Essays turned in a week past the deadline will be given a “zero,” but must nevertheless be submitted in order to pass the course.

Your paper should be stapled or paper-clipped and include page numbers. Format: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

**Absence Policy:**

When you are absent—especially when you are frequently absent—two things happen. First, your participation grade drops substantially. Second, you naturally fall behind in understanding course material and neither the class nor the Professor can catch you up on everything missed in a day’s class. **YOU need to decide when it is absolutely necessary to miss class.** Be wise. It bears repeating: you cannot make up missed work and late assignments will be penalized. Whether these are excused or unexcused absences does not matter for this course. Being late for class will be counted as an absence. **If you are late for or miss more than five (5) class meetings, you cannot pass this course.** If you think you will be late for or miss more than five classes, you should strongly reconsider registering for this class. Once you have missed six classes, you are welcome to continue visiting the class, but you will receive a failure on your transcript.

**Emailing Policy:**

I want to get to know you and your work this semester. Thus I ask that you call me or stop by my office during office hours (or scheduled times) so that we can talk. **DO NOT EMAIL ME TO ASK FOR AN “UPDATE” ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, OR TO EXPLAIN AN ABSENCE.** Working groups will be assigned so that you can contact group members for notes and missed work.