ENG 1001G-026-035-042: Composition and Language

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Instructor: Gerard Donovan  
Semester: Fall 2007  
Course: English 1001G Composition and Language  
Sections: 026 (1200-1250); 035 (1300-1350); 042 (1400-1450)  
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Texts  
Brereton and Peterson. The Norton Reader. (11th ed.)  
Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (11th ed.)  

Please purchase a notebook that can serve as a journal. This should be separate from your class notebook, or be contained entirely in one section.  

Course Description  

English 1001G: Composition and Language. A course in the reading and writing of expressive, expository, and persuasive texts. Attention is given to effective expression, clear structure, adequate development, and documentation of sources.  

Course Objectives  

1. To write expository and persuasive papers in which words, sentences, and paragraphs develop a central idea.  
2. To learn and employ pre-writing strategies as a means of generating effective content and planning.  
3. To formulate thesis statements (claims) and provide supporting detail (evidence).  
4. To use expository strategies in the papers—e.g., description, narration, and comparison/contrast as effective methods of organization.  
5. To identify and avoid major usage errors.  
6. To recognize the structural elements in a basic sentence.  
7. To improve papers using revision techniques.  
8. To introduce the student to field research, primary and secondary sources, and basic methods of documentation in a research essay.  
9. To read and discuss selected essays from the anthology to further expand the student’s range of subject matter.  
10. To write journal entries that express an original voice.
Grading System and Assignments

Grading Scale: Excellent (90-100%) = A; Above Average (80-89%) = B
               Average (70-79%) = C; Below Average (60-69%) = D
               Failing (0-59%) = NC

Essay #1 (diagnostic) not graded
Essay #2 10 percent
Essay #3 20 percent
Essay #4 (research) 20 percent
Usage Exams #1 and #2 10 percent (2 x 5)
Journals 10 percent
Quizzes 10 percent
Final Exam 20 percent

(Essay length: first draft, 4-5 pages; final draft, 3-4 pages.)

As the course develops, you may be assigned extra in- and out- of class writing, or I may reformulate the assignment/grading as indicated above. If so, I will announce the grading for the extra assignment(s), or the change.

The final grade entered for the course will be either A, B, C, or NC. Plus (+) and minus (-) are not used in the final course grades but may be used in grading during the semester.

Class Policies

1. You are allowed three unexcused absences. If you are late three times, you may be assigned one absence.

2. Late work will cost you one full grade per calendar day. After three days, the assignment fails. With an excused absence and prior arrangement with the instructor, an essay may be handed in late without penalty.

3. Cell phones are disruptive. They must be turned OFF and be out of sight during class periods. If the phone rings, beeps, or buzzes, one grade will be deducted from your next paper. If I see a phone on your desk during a quiz or a test, you will fail that quiz or test. If you answer the phone during class or leave the class to use the phone, you will be assessed an absence.

4. You are responsible for assignments even if you were absent the class in which they were assigned. Please take the telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses of at least 3 students in the class, adding or updating when necessary. In this way you can keep current and be advised of assignments.

5. You must bring the textbook(s) under review with you to class.

6. All essay manuscripts must be typed and double-spaced, pages numbered and stapled in the top left-hand corner. Please do not use a cover sheet or plastic cover sheets or any folders. The student’s name, the date, the assignment, and instructor’s name should appear on the first manuscript page, in top left-hand corner. All essays will be given a number grade, a letter grade, critical comments, and an explanation of the grade. If an essay has more than five major usage errors, it is likely to fail. Any essay grade can be discussed during office hours or a scheduled appointment.
7. Plagiarism. Eastern Illinois University's policy on plagiarism is as follows: Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"the appropriation 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 assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to Judicial Affairs.

8. Students with Disabilities: If you are a student who has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

WEEK ONE
Intro to Course and syllabus/Roll Call/Explanation of diagnostic essay. Diagnostic Essay. Reading.

WEEK TWO

WEEK THREE

WEEK FOUR

WEEK FIVE

WEEK SIX

WEEK SEVEN

WEEK EIGHT

WEEK NINE
Essay #3 due. Prep for Usage Exam #2. Reading.

WEEK TEN

WEEK ELEVEN

WEEK TWELVE: Essay #4 due. REVIEW/FINAL.