

Fall 8-15-2000

## ENG 1001G-027: Composition and Language

Spear

*Eastern Illinois University*

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10016-027

## English 1001: A course description and syllabus.

Instructor: Spear  
Office: Coleman Hall 332  
Phone: 581-7011 or 345-6819  
Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:00 M and W  
and by appointment.

### Required purchases:

a spiral notebook to be used as a journal for this class only  
four exam booklets (available at the Union Bookstore)

### Writing as a Process

Writing is a teachable skill, like carpentry or painting or playing the guitar. The big difference is that you can have a wonderful life without ever becoming a carpenter or painter or musician, but effective writing is an indispensable skill that will help you along in whatever role you create for yourself. Rumor has it that good writing is the product of inspiration, but this is for the most part a fallacy. Good writing is not really even a product at all; it is a process. And, as Linda Flower says in Problem Solving Strategies for Writing, "if a writer's method relies on waiting for inspiration, she may have a long and uninterrupted wait."

The process theory of writing also does away with the old notion of "first you think it up, then you write it down." What happens more often than not is that you write your way toward what you believe: you discover new ideas as you write. Writing becomes a thinking process that improves with practice. That is why we will be keeping journals. The journal writing technique is a way of practicing the necessary skills in way that adds up to many many pages, without demanding eight or ten papers from you. It also gives you a no-pressure environment in which to warm up your skills.

### Grades:

Your grade will be determined by averaging scores from eight writing assignments. The journal consists of two of the assignments, since it is collected and evaluated twice. There will also be one expressive (narrative) essay, one expository essay, one collaborative essay, two in-class essays that you will have two class sessions each to compose, and a (literary) critical research paper.

This may be one of the hardest classes you will take at the university, and it certainly will be one of the most important because, in a way, you are simultaneously attending all of your university classes that will follow. I am available by appointment

at your convenience if I can help, and I have included my home phone number. Also, there is an excellent -- and free -- service available to you at the Writing Center, Coleman Hall 301. You will walk out of the door with a better paper every single time.

If an assignment is late, it will be docked one letter grade for each class session it is late. Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -2. They may not be made up. (See "Grading," below.) Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

- 12.5% -- Essay 1: Self expression (Narrative)
- 12.5% -- Journal 1
- 12.5% -- Essay 2: Exposition
- 12.5% -- Essay 3: In-class essay, near mid-term
- 12.5% -- Essay 4: Collaboration
- 12.5% -- Journal 2
- 12.5% -- Essay 5: Modified Literary Research
- 12.5% -- Essay 6: In- class essay, last week

I will use the following values in averaging your grades:

A+ = 4.2	B+ = 3.2	C+ = 2.2	D+ = 1.2	F = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	Missing = -2.0
A - = 3.8	B - = 2.8	C - = 1.8	D - = 0.8	

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8	B = 3.7 to 2.8	C = 2.7 to 1.8
	N/C = 1.7 and below	

This is an A, B, C, or no-credit class, so you can't get a D or an F, but if you get a N/C you will have to take it again. Invest your talents and time in this class and you will never regret it.

Journals:

Requiring you to keep a journal is a blessing in disguise. It is a place for you to help satisfy departmental requirements for the quantity of writing you produce, free from some of the limitations associated with producing a polished rhetorical artifact. Journal entries can record your impressions of the works you read and serve as practice fields for the essays you subsequently generate. Each day's entry should consist of at least two hundred and fifty words. The journals will be collected twice during the semester, and their evaluation will constitute a significant (25%) portion of your grade.

## Information for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

## Plagiarism Policy

I am required to say this about the English Department's policy concerning 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 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 assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay, and a grade of N/C for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs office.

Pretty strong language for a pretty serious offense; it occurs, and has resulted, in some cases, in expulsion from the university. We’re learning a survival skill here, and a cheater is only cheating himself.

Syllabus for English 1001, Fall semester, 2000

- August 21 Introduction to the class. Invention Strategies. Listing.
- 23 Diagnostic Essay.
- 25 MLA Format. Looping.
- 28 Clustering. Up Drafts and Down Drafts. A One Inch Frame.  
The Narrative Essay Assignment.
- 30 Read Maya Angelou's "Uncle Willie," in St. Martin's (67-68).  
Read p. 491 in St. Martin's. Writing Groups.
- Sept. 1 Dominant Image in Narratives.  
(Related readings: St. Martin's 39-49 & 84-87; Blair 90-105)
- 4 Labor Day -- No Class..
- 6 \* Turn in a 3 - 5 page typed draft of your narrative essay.  
Bring 2 extra copies to class.
- 8 Assessments and Evaluations.
- 11 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 13 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 15 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 18 \* Turn in your 3 - 5 page revised narrative essay.  
The Expository Essay Assignment.
- 20 Audience and Purpose in Popular Music.  
Bring in a tape or CD of a favorite piece of music.
- 22 Reader based vs. Writer based prose: Audience awareness.  
(Related readings: St. Martin's 294-99 315-16; Blair 106-21)

- 25 Writing as a Recursive Process. The Enhanced Thesis.
- 27 \* Turn in a 3 - 5 page typed draft of your expository essay. Bring 2 extra copies to class.
- 29 Assessments and Evaluations.
- Oct. 2 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.  
\* Turn in your journal during conference.
- 4 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 6 Mandatory Conferences this week -- No Class.
- 9 \* Turn in your 3 - 5 page revised Expository Essay.  
Mid-term essay -- to be written entirely in class on consecutive sessions. Please bring two exam booklets to class.
- 11 Mid-term essay -- to be written entirely in class on consecutive sessions. Please bring two exam booklets to class.
- 13 \* Revise and complete Mid-term essay.
- Oct. 16 The Collaborative Writing Assignment.  
On the Nature of Dreams and Dreaming.
- 18 Xeno's Riddle and Freud's Triumvirate. In class collaboration.  
(Related readings: St. Martin's 201-24; Blair 122-48)
- 20 Fall Break - No Class
- 23 Gender Theory: Toward a Feminist Theory of Argumentation.
- 25 Collaboration and Compromise. Negotiation and Mediation.
- 27 Tying the Knot: Protocol Analysis. In class collaboration.

- Oct. 30 Audience and Purpose in Dreams and Essays.
- Nov. 1 \* Turn in your revised collaborative essay and protocol analysis.  
The literary research assignment.  
(Related readings: St. Martin's 383-407; Blair 149-63.
- 3 Field trip to Tarble.
- 6 Read "True Trash" by Margaret Atwood, p. 549-54 in Connections.
- 8 Complete "True Trash," p. 554-67 in Connections.
- 10 Exploration of potential research topics. Writing Workshop.
- 13 Read Ackerman's "The Face of Beauty," p. 252-56 in Connections.
- 15 Read Pastan's "Ethics," p. 448 in Connections.
- 17 In class Writing workshop.
- 20 Thanksgiving Break - No Class
- 22 Thanksgiving Break - No Class
- 24 Thanksgiving Break - No Class
- 27 MLA Documentation. Skillful incorporation of quotes.  
Please bring Connections.
- 29 Grammar review. Review of MLA format for research papers.
- Dec. 1 \* Turn in your journal.
- 4 \* Turn in revised literary research paper.  
Final essay -- to be written entirely in class on consecutive  
sessions. Please bring two exam booklets to class.
- 6 Final essay continued.
- 8 \* Revise and complete Final essay.
- Dec. 11-15 Finals week. No final in this class. Good luck on your other finals!