ENG 1001-026: Composition and Language

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ENGLISH 1001.026  THE SIMPSONS AND COMPOSITION  
FALL 2006  
TUESDAY-THURSDAY 11:00-12:15  
COLEMAN HALL 3120/3130  

YOUR INSTRUCTOR  
Barry Hudek  
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TEXTBOOKS  
Beyond Words: Reading and Writing in a Visual Age (BW)  
The Norton Reader (NR)  
Easy Writer (EW)  

COURSE OBJECTIVES  
Gain an understanding and command of visual and cultural literacy  
Use knowledge of visual and cultural literacy to build academic skills  
Learn argumentation and persuasion  
Write in a clear and affective manner  
Critically analyze various forms of media  

Beginning composition is, in many ways, the MOST important class you will take at the university. It is designed to aid you throughout your entire collegiate career and into your careers as professionals. Therefore, treat it as such.  

You should also know that this class is considered “writing centered” for your EWP requirements (which we will talk about later in the semester). Furthermore, if you have a documented disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.  

ATTENDANCE POLICY  
You can miss THREE classes without penalty. Also, an absence is an absence. I will not judge between excused or unexcused, so you do not need to tell me why you missed class. If you miss more than THREE classes you will receive an “F.” I do take attendance everyday be it formally or informally.  

ASSIGNMENTS  
Participation and Attendance  
Blog-Postings  140  
Identity Paper  50  
Art-Analysis Paper  50  
Mini-Research Paper  100  
Reflection Paper  50
There is no mid-term or final in English 1001. The writing itself is what is most important here.

**LATE WORK**
We will be turning in all assignments electronically in this class but I do accept late work. The penalty for late work will be one letter grade per day late.

**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 immediate assignment 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."

A very serious offense, it can, and has resulted in expulsion from the university. This class is about learning the necessary skills for all classes to come; don’t cheat yourself.

**THE CALENDAR**

**August**
22 Class / Syllabus Introduction

24 In-Class Interviews, Diagnostic Essay

Paying Attention / Music
29 Prelude, 1-5 (BW); “Homerpalooza”

31 Chapter 1, 18-45 (BW); “Homer’s Barbershop Quartet,” Song Blog

**September**
Getting Attention / Food & Health
5 Chapter 2, 50-60 (BW); “Lisa the Vegetarian”

7 Chapter 2, 60-73 (BW); “Homer’s Triple Bypass,” “American Fat,” 394-396 (NR)

Picturing Ourselves / Sports
12 Identity; “Lisa the Greek”

14 Chapter 3, 79-91 (BW); “Team Homer,” “The Sports Taboo,” 266-273 (NR)

Seeing Places / Communities
19 Region; “Whacking Day”

21 Chapter 4, 164-175 (BW); “Lemon of Troy”; Hometown Blog

Moving Pictures / Moving Education
26 **Identity Paper Due**; Narrative; “Bart the Genius”
28 Chapter 5, 250-263 (BW); “Homer Goes to College;” “College is a Waste of Time and Money,” 429-436 (NR)

October
Mapping Ideas / Economics
3 Chapter 6, 332-341 (BW); “The Old Man and Lisa”

5 Chapter 6, 342-345 (BW); “Springfield (or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Legalized Gambling;” “Why Colleges Shower their Students with A’s,” 390-392 (NR)

Exploring Design / Energy Sources
10 Chapter 7, 426-434 (BW); “Two Cars in Every Garage, Three Eyes on Every Fish”

12 Chapter 7, 435-441 (BW); “Homer’s Odyssey;” Self-Research Blog

Politics
17 Art-Analysis Paper Due; Chapter 8, 516-525 (BW); “Mr. Lisa Goes to Washington”

19 Chapter 8, 526-533 (BW) “Last Exit to Springfield;” The Onion: “American People Ruled Unfit to Govern,” 541-543 (BW)

Class
24 Writing, 12-30 (EW); “Scenes from the Class Struggle in Springfield”

26 Writing, 31-52 (EW); “Bart Gets Hit by a Car;” “The Pyramids,” 555-556 (NR)

Debating Culture / Gender
31 Research (library); “Lisa vs. Malibu Stacy”

November
2 Research (online); “Homer’s Phobia;” “Women Giving the Directions,” 470-474 (BW)

Marriage & Family
7 Research 168-187 (EW); “The War of the Simpsons”


History
14 Mini-conferences; “Telltale Head”

16 Peer-Review; “Lisa the Iconoclast;” “Rewriting American History,” 828-834 (NR)

21 Thanksgiving Break: No Class
23 Thanksgiving Break: No Class

Violence & Society

28 Mini-Research Paper Due: Style, 88-94 (EW); “Itchy & Scratchy & Marge”

30 Style, 94-98 (EW); “Itchy & Scratchy Land;” “Can TV Improve Us?” (handout)

December
Point of View / Setting
5 Wrap-up; “22 Short Films about Springfield”

7 Reflection Paper Due; “The Way We Was;” “Sowers and Reapers,” 156-161 (NR)

12 Final Due Date