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ENG 1001-032-037-065: Composition and Language

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English 1001C
Syllabus: Fall 1997

Sections 032, 037 & 065
Fall Semester, 1997
Instructor: Michael Kuo

To Reach Me: My office is in Coleman 315G, and my office hour is 3:00 to 4:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. My office phone number is 6301 (voice mail), and you're welcome to call me at home at 348-5529 (dial "9" first if you're on campus).

Course Description: A course in the reading and writing of expressive, expository, and persuasive essays. Attention is given to effective expression, clear structure, adequate development, and documentation of sources. Prerequisite: English 1000 or proficiency in basic skills as determined by the English Department.

English at Eastern: At a minimum, you will be required to pass this course, and English 1002C, which is another writing course. The catalogue describes 1002C as a course "designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts." Since 1001C is a prerequisite for 1002C, most students take 1002C in the spring semester of their first year. 1002C is a prerequisite for all other English classes. Many of you will also be required to take 3001, Advanced Composition, in your third year. You will also have the option to take almost any upper-division English course as an elective -- for example, Creative Writing -- after you have passed 1002C.

Placement in this class is based on your ACT English score (15 or higher), or upon passing English 1000, Fundamental English. If in the first few days of class I discover that your writing is more on par with English 1000, I will recommend that you switch to a section of Fundamental English. The hitch is that the credits from English 1000 do not count towards graduation.

After you have taken 60 hours of courses, you'll need to take the Writing Competency Exam. Eastern will not let you graduate until you have passed this test. The university is also kind enough to charge you $10.00 every time you take the test. You'll have to do some written exercises, and write an essay on some topic that will probably be stupid. When I took it in 1984, I had to write an essay on what the state animal should be.

Eastern's "Writing Across the Curriculum" policy, in theory, means that you will be required to do a lot of writing in many of your classes outside the English Department. Eastern implemented this policy several years ago in an attempt to make sure students improve their writing, regardless of their area of study. This is probably a good idea;
when I worked as a banker I had a boss who had a Business degree from Eastern and bragged that, outside of English 1001 and 1002, he never had to write a paper at Eastern. He lost his job as bank president soon thereafter, partly because he was unable to express himself in writing beyond the 10th. grade level. At the same time, I went from being a teller to being vice president in one year, in great part because I was able to write.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please notify me and contact the Coordinator of the Office of disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is required. I will reduce your course grade if attendance becomes a problem, on the following scale: two to three unexcused absences -- one letter grade; four to six unexcused absences -- two letter grades; more than six unexcused absences--no credit. I will also reduce your course grade by as much as one letter grade if you do not consistently participate in class discussions and activities.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The English Department's official plagiarism statement is: "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 NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Late work will not be accepted except by previous arrangement.

Textbooks:

*Harbrace College Handbook*
*The St. Martin's Guide to Writing*
*Webster's Dictionary*
*English Online: A Student's Guide to the Internet and the World Wide Web*

(These should be available at the Textbook Library.)

Computer disks: You'll need to buy five formatted 3 1/2" floppy disks (HD or DS DD) for IBM compatibles.

Conferences: We will schedule individual conferences at least two or three times during the semester. Attendance for these conferences is mandatory.

Important Note: These sections will alternate between Coleman 302 and Coleman 340. These two rooms are the English Department's new technology-integrated classrooms. The rooms were constructed last year, and the computers are some of the very best on campus. You did not know you were signing up for a computer section when you registered, but before you panic, let me try to reassure you. I'm sure I don't have to convince you that learning how to use computers has to be an integral part of higher education these days. Imagine yourself on the job market,
telling a prospective employer you hate computers and never want to touch one in your
life.

I will teach this course as a writing course, first and foremost. But I will also teach you
how to use Windows 95, Netscape, and Eudora -- as well as teach you how to use
e-mail, how to navigate and use the Internet and the World Wide Web, and how to
create your own Web pages. That's a lot of computer stuff, but you'll be amazed at how
easy it turns out to be, and at how little time, relatively speaking, we actually have to
spend on "computer stuff" instead of "English stuff."

In this course I will teach computer stuff with the assumption that you have never
touched one in your life. After teaching over 20 sections of writing classes on
computers, I've decided that this is the best course to take. So, we'll start at the
beginning. This means that some of you will be a little bored while the rest of the group
catches up to your level of computer ability. I will expect you to take this opportunity to
help others.

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**Grading**

**Five Essays (600 words each): 25 points (5 each)**

**Personal Homepage: 15 points**

**1,000-word Contribution to ABC (The E'zine No One Understands): 15 points**

**1,500-word Contribution to Online Class Research Project: 25 points**

**Contributions to Class Web Site:**

- "About Me": 5 points
- "How I Can Help": 5 points
- Portfolio: 10 points

**total: 100 points**

The five essays will be due according to the schedule below. Topics will be assigned as we go.

"About Me" and "How I Can Help," your first contributions to the class web site,
will be due September 3. Each of these texts will consist of several meaty paragraphs.

**Personal Homepage:** These will be due by September 15. Requirements and guidelines
will be announced.

Your contribution to ABC will be due October 8. We'll decide together on sections and
topics for this semester's issue of the e'zine.

We'll organize the Online Class Research Project together; we'll spend roughly the
last half of the semester working on this. Your contributions will be due December 8.

One essay in your portfolio will be due near Mid-term, on October 15; the other will be
due at the end of the semester, on December 15. These essays will consist of revisions

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of two of your two favorite/best essays from the semester, and they will be added to your section of the Class Web Site.

I'll use the English Department's "Standards for Evaluating Themes at Eastern Illinois University" to grade all written work.

Regardless of grade, you must turn in all assignments to get credit for the course.

Final Grade:
90 - 100 points = A
80 - 89 points = B
70 - 79 points = C
<70 points = No Credit

You will be responsible for mastering e-mail and checking it often; I will use e-mail to notify you of assignments and grades, and we will use e-mail to organize various group projects like the e'zine contributions and the research project. Assignments (but not grades, of course) will also be posted on the Internet. We'll learn how to use Telnet/ELM and Windows/Eudora in class.

All written assignments must be produced in Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) as web pages. Don't worry; it's easy. The 5 essays, the e'zine contribution, the research project contribution, and your contributions to the class web site must be turned in on disks or through your class's desktop folder; your personal homepage must be "turned in" by appearing in working order at your web address. We will learn to make web pages with Netscape Communicator in class.

Printing will not be allowed in CH 302, and I will not accept printed work.

Everything on this syllabus, including the schedule below, is subject to change, providing we agree. The rules for changing the syllabus are half dictatorial and half democratic; I must vote 'yes' for a change, and more than half of you must vote 'yes.' That way, if you all decide to change my name to Mickey Mouse, it won't happen. Conversely, if I decide to make all your papers 20 pages long, it won't happen, either. Any changes will be posted to the syllabus on the Internet. Though I will announce these changes when and if they occur, you are responsible for knowing about them.

SCHEDULE
**MONDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **FRIDAY**
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AUGUST 25 | 27 | 29
Introduction | Quiz on Syllabus? | Netscape (MWF Only)
Assignment for Wednesday: | E-Mail Assignment for Wednesday: | "About Me" & "How I Can Help"
Read Syllabus (Quiz?) | "About Me" & "How I Can Help" Due |
Have E-Mail Account!!!!!! |
**SEPTEMBER 1** | 3 | 5
Labor Day; No Class |
8 | 10 | 12
Essay 1 Due |
15 | 17 | 19
PERSONAL HOMEPAGE DUE |
22 | 24 | 26
29 | OCTOBER 1 | 3
Essay 2 Due |
6 | 8 | 10
E'ZINE CONTRIBUTION DUE |
13 | 15 | 17
1st. Portfolio Essay Due |
20 | 22 | 24
27 | 29 | 31
Essay 3 Due |
NOVEMBER 3 | 5 | 7
10 | 12 | 14
Essay 4 Due |
17 | 19 | 21
THANKSGIVING 24 | 26 | 28
DECEMBER 1 | 3 | 5
Essay 5 Due |
8 | 10 | 12
RESEARCH PROJECT DUE |
FINALS WEEK 15 | 17 | 19
2nd. Portfolio Essay Due |

**Note Regarding Pornographic Images:**

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Any idiot who pops up dirty pictures on the screen in our classroom gets an F for the course. Not fair? Too strict? Not within my prerogatives? I'll let you process the grade appeal. In the meantime, my tolerance for sexual harassment is zero.

**Note Regarding Playing on the Computers, Surfing the Net, and So on:**

I will expect you to use class time for working on assignments or, if we're discussing something, for paying attention and taking notes. If you're not able to handle this, I will ask you to leave. If the problem persists, I'll reduce your grade.

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freshman seminar

Michael Kuo 8/23/97