Fall 8-15-2008

ENG1001G-027-042: Composition and Language

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Course Objectives:
To improve critical thinking, writing, editing and revising skills
To practice academic research and attribution of sources using MLA style
To foster awareness of effective use of language and methods of writing

Course Policies:
You must complete all assignments, and participate in class discussion and group activities in order to pass the course. Work done in class cannot be made up. Alternative assignments will be offered for a maximum of two excused absences, which require documentation from the following list:

- A signed, dated doctor's excuse
- A memo from a coach or faculty re: a university activity
- A card from a funeral on the date of the absence
- A document confirming attendance at a religious service

All work must be completed by its deadline to receive full credit. Late assignments will be marked down 10% each day.

In addition to discussion, group work, and writings done in class, the participation grade will include responses to essays (see below), and other brief writings on assigned topics.

Guidelines for Response Essays (about readings from texts)
Read the essay all the way through to get the full meaning/effect, then consider the following questions on a second reading. Incorporate your responses into an effectively organized essay about two pages long. You don't have to respond to each of these questions, or in this order.

1. What overall point is the writer trying to make?
2. What kind of attitude does the writer convey? What attitude does the essay provoke in you personally?
3. What new insights on the topic do you get from reading this essay?
4. What did you find admirable/annoying about the writer's ideas?
5. Why do you agree/disagree with the writer's point? What is there in your personal experience that parallels/differs from the experience shown in the essay?
6. How is the essay structured? What techniques does the writer use to get attention, clarify, elaborate and organize? How are transitions created?
7. Comment on the writer's use of language.

Manuscript Form:
Assignments completed outside of class must be typed and double-spaced throughout. Put your first and last name in the upper right corner. Center your title using the same font and size as the text in the body of the essay. 11-point type is sufficient.
Grade Determination:
Grading will be based on the standard rubric of the EIU English Dept. (see handout), which is admittedly subjective. If you believe a grade you receive is lower than you deserve, your recourse is to submit an explanation of why you think you have been misjudged. Refer to standards from the department rubric and demonstrate specifically why your essay should be scored higher in relationship to these standards. I will reconsider, but not necessarily change your score.

Assignments are weighted as follows:
- Essay 1: 20%
- Essay 2: 20%
- Oral presentation: 10%
- Research Essay: 30%
- Participation: 20% (Discussion/groups/response journal)

For your final grade: 90-100=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, Below 70=NC

Policy on Plagiarism:
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines plagiarism as “the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work.” Plagiarism is cheating. If you turn in another person’s work or material cut and pasted from the Internet, you will achieve an F for the course. You will be reported to the Judicial Affairs Office, and the incident will become a part of your academic record.

Disabilities:
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, you must contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583.

Texts:

(Bring the text we're using to class. Failure to do so will result in a deduction from your class participation points.)

Course Schedule:
(Subject to alterations announced in class)
- Aug 26: Intro/ discussion of language, composition, analysis
- Aug 28: 4-11 WA: Be able to discuss Exercise 1.4, and the good and bad points of the essays on 8 and 11. Be able to answer the questions in exercise 1.7.
- Sept 2: 11-14, 17-32 WA: Be able to discuss the concepts of tolerating uncertainty, confusion as a productive state of mind, generalizing, naturalizing assumptions, opinions vs. ideas
- Sept 4: 42-49, 57-59 WA: Do exercise 2.4
  DUE: Response Essay (see instructions on previous page)
- Sept 11: Group project/Discuss upcoming assignments