ENG 1001C-027-032-065-072: Composition and Language

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General Information & Policies

To Reach Me: My office is in Coleman 315G, and my office hour is 10:00 to 12:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. 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...

Welcome

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EIU Homepage
Writing Center
Parkland Homepage

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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.

**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." See also "Downloading Papers."

**Late work** will not be accepted except by previous arrangement.

**E-mail and Internet browsing skills:** I will not teach you, in class, how to use e-mail or how to browse the Internet with Netscape or Internet Explorer. However, you are required to master these skills! If it is all new to you, ask for help.

**All written assignments must be produced in Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) as Web pages.** Don't worry; it's easy. The 3 essays, the e'zine contribution, and the research project contribution must be turned in on disks; 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.

Note Regarding Pornographic Images: 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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Materials

Textbooks:

A Pocket Style Manual
Connections
Webster's Dictionary

(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.

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Grading

Three Essays (1,000 words each): 30 points (10 each)  
Personal Homepage: 15 points  
1,000-word Contribution to class e’zine: 15 points  
1,000-word Contribution to Online Class Research Project: 25 points  
Portfolio: 15 points

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**total: 100 points**

Topics for the three essays will be assigned as we go.

**Personal Homepage:** These will be due by September 7. Requirements and guidelines will be announced.

Your **contribution to the class e'zine** will be due October 14. 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 7.

Your **portfolio** will be due on December 16. It will consist of revisions of two of your favorite/best essays from the semester, and they will be linked from your homepage.

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.

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

**What Am I Getting in this Class?**

Enter the number of points you have received for each assignment to calculate your grade so far. If you have received a 0 (zero) for any assignment, enter 0 (zero, not the letter O). Make sure you *LEAVE BLANK* any grades you have not received.

By clicking "Send," you certify that you understand there is no guarantee what-so-ever that the grade calculation you receive is accurate.

Homepage:  
Essay 1:  

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