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ENG 1001G-038: Composition and Language

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English 1001G: First-Year Composition/Autumn 2001
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Texts: Available through EIU's Textbook Rental System:
- Colombo, et al, *Re-reading America*
- Donna Dunbar-Odom, *Working with Ideas: Reading, Writing and Researching Experience*.
- Harnack and Kleppinger, *Online: A Reference Guide to Using Internet Sources*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*

Other Materials:
- A notebook with dividers. I favor duo-tang notebooks with pockets and clips. This should be different from the notebook in which you keep your class notes.
- Two formatted 3.5" computer disks. These computers will "read" double-sided or high-density disks, so choose the type that is compatible with your computer. If you have no preference, get high density.
- Course Packets (TBA)

Course Content and Objectives: As a first-year course in composition, English 1001G is designed to develop skills in critical reading, thinking and writing. Our goal will be to produce effective and competent essays. We have the advantage of working in an ETIC (English Technology-Integrated Classroom), of which we will avail ourselves in the writing and revision process. In addition to developing, extending, and honing our own writing skills we will be examining the way language works in a variety of contexts. Themes and topics often help to focus our inquiry and, thus, this course takes as its topic, "Woman on the Scaffold'/ Gender and the Law." We will consider how both women and men are defined within different systems of language or 'discourses': literary, juridical, historical, journalistic and cinematic. This course is divided into three units: the introduction in which we will lay the foundation for subsequent writing and reading; in the second, we will examine Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* in tandem with transcripts of the trial of Anne Hutchinson. The final unit will allow students to develop a research project in keeping with their own interests as they relate to the class topic.

For each unit you will write at least two papers. Because this class strongly emphasizes revision, that is a "re-thinking" or "re-seeing" of an earlier edition, you will have the opportunity to revise two of the longer papers. Additionally, you will have several in-class papers, as well as other short writing assignments, peer critiques and self-assessments. In short, some kind of reading and/or writing homework will be the rule rather than the exception. You cannot pass this class without handing in ALL the writing assignments so save everything. Papers must be turned in at the beginning of the class on the due date. Late papers will lose half a letter grade for each day late off of the unit grade.
Participation and Attendance: This class is based upon individual and collaborative work; therefore, daily involvement is an essential and a significant part of your grade. You are expected to be here both mentally and physically, and to contribute actively to all group work and in-class discussions and presentations. Credit only can be earned by completed work; this work includes your presence in class. Missing a class does not excuse you from coming to the next class unprepared; it is your responsibility to obtain any assignments you may have missed. To that end you will want to establish a connection with a 1001G “Study-Buddy.” Just showing up every day won’t give you full credit in this category either. I am looking for thoughtful comments or questions that contribute to class discussion.

Conferences: At least twice during the semester I will meet with each of you formally to discuss your work. These conferences are required and I think you will find them most helpful. Additionally, I have set aside office hours especially for you to come in and discuss any questions or concerns you might have, or just to chat about your ideas. If you cannot make these times, I am happy to meet you by appointment.

Course Responsibilities and Grading:

- Unit One Paper and Portfolio: 15%
- Unit Two Paper and Portfolio: 25%
- Unit Three Research Paper and Portfolio: 40%
- Film Review: 10%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%

Course Calendar: Week One

8/20 Introduction
For Wednesday: Read hand-out “A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell
Respond to the following questions in an essay form: (typed, standard 12pt font, pages numbered, 1” margins).
1) How would you evaluate yourself as a writer? Do you consider yourself a strong expository writer? Why or why not? Do you have any particular frustrations about writing prose essays and arguments?
2) What would you like to get out of this class?
3) Do you envision writing as a component of your professional and personal life after college?
4) Please describe the best English class you have ever taken. What was it about the class that made it so enjoyable?

8/22 “The Rhetoric of Dirt or, Evidence in the Kitchen”: Come prepared to discuss Susan Glaspell’s “A Jury of Her Peers.”
For Friday: Fill in the hand-out on Oppositional Analysis and respond to the questions on the last page focusing the questions on “A Jury of Her Peers”

8/24 Oppositional Analysis.
For Monday: Read hand-out of the trial document, “State of Iowa v. Margaret Hossack”