ENG 1001G-045: Composition and Language

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Course Description:

ENGL 1001 Gregg A. Hecimovich MW 3:00-4:15 Coleman Hall 302/340
Office Phone: 581-5614

ENGLISH 1001 is an introduction to writing clear, well-argued prose; and an introduction to important works of critical thought in the fields of politics, economics, psychology, science, and philosophy. The aim is to become better writers and thinkers.

Requirements:

The following texts are available electronically. (YOU DO NOT NEED TEXTBOOK RENTAL BOOKS!)

1. Introduction to Critical Reading; Selections from Machiavelli; Rousseau; Jefferson; Martin Luther King Jr.; Smith; Marx; Galbraith; Reich; Frey; Freud; Skinner; Grealy; Bacon; Darwin; Gould; and Plato.

For Electronic Texts and Resources click here:

Through readings, papers, and class participation, I require the development of the following skills:

1. the ability to convey thoughts and ideas taken from the works read—that is, the improvement of your interpretive capabilities.
2. the ability to recognize and evaluate different methods of communication
3. the ability to identify the inter-play of writers within a larger discourse by understanding some historical context and relevance

finally, the ability to craft coherent and complex thoughts onto paper while adhering to proper grammatical standards

THE HEAVEN AND HELL OF COMPOSITION

"Composition" comes from the Latin com- which means
"together" and the Latin *poner* which means "to place," "to put down." Put in its broadest terms, English 3001 involves a whole network of etymologies: disposing, imposing, interposing, opposing, proposing and supposing. That is what you will be doing over the course of the semester. William Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell* serves as a model for the work of "composition." In his "Illuminated" Marriage, Blake draws together verse, prose, drawings, and color to give body to his vision of political, economic, psychological, scientific, and philosophical truth. The composition of ideas, as Blake well knew, finds its inspiration in forms and figures—as well as in sentences. Your experience in English 1001 will explore "composing" in similar terms. In an age of multimedia and the Internet, the future rests in a wide range of "composing" skills—and you will undertake the cultivation of these skills in this class. BACK TO TOP

DRAWING FROM ESSAYS, ILLUMINATED DOUBLE-SIDED READINGS, AND OTHER MATERIALS, you will complete an original "illuminated work" at the end of the semester. This "illuminated work" will serve as your final exam—a synthesis of the essays you write over the course of the semester. *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, then, serves as our starting point and our ending point. You should become familiar with the work. Blake will be our first, and our most sustained, foray into the heaven and hell of "composition." BACK TO TOP

THE COURSE REQUIRES FOUR ESSAYS, two of which must be re-written. Essays one and two must be at least four pages long. Essays three and four must be at least five pages long. You will Re-Write two essays for new grade credit (see Revisions below). Writing assignments are designed to allow you to pull together the diverse readings in a thoughtful and critical way. Subject matter is open. "Instigator Questions" will be provided to suggest possible approaches.

PAPERS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on the day indicated in the course schedule and will be reviewed by your peers on occasion BACK TO TOP

SIMPLY CORRECTING THE GRAMMATICAL AND SPELLING ERRORS OF THE ORIGINAL PAPER does not constitute a rewrite. A proper revision requires a general re-thinking and re-working of the original points and introduces new ones. Editorial comments are perhaps the most valuable and personalized advice on how to improve your writing, and your revisions should take them into account BACK TO TOP

TO ENSURE YOUR PROGRESS IN THE COURSE, you are required to meet with me at least twice during the semester. These conferences appear on the schedule and are mandatory. Additional meetings are optional but strongly suggested. BACK TO TOP

ENGLISH 1001 is not a lecture course. Your presence and participation are required. Absences will affect your grade. Four unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one full letter. Five or more unexcused absences will result in automatic failure. BACK TO TOP

SEE THE STUDENT HANDBOOK for information on the school's honor code. See the *Harbrace College Handbook* and on-line documentation materials for information on proper documentation. Further information about citing electronic and textual sources is available from the Writer's Toolbox page on this web. Plagiarism should not be a problem, but if it is, it is a serious one and can only result in failure. BACK TO TOP

http://www.eiu.edu/~multilit/english1001-f00/1001.html 8/25/00
GRADING

The following percentages show the weight given each paper, your participation, and DSIR's/List-Serv:

- Papers and Revisions %65
- Class participation %10
- DSIR/Reading Quizzes/ Peer Reviews %10
- Final "Illuminated Work" %10

Four essays and the "illuminated work" constitute the bulk of your final grade—a grade which will reflect how successfully you achieve the goals listed above. When writing papers, follow the MLA guidelines described in your Harbrace College Handbook. Papers are due at the beginning of class, and any paper handed in after that time will be considered late. Given that the class will operate on a workshop schedule, it is essential that all papers come in as scheduled; late papers without a prearranged extension (given only under dire circumstances) will suffer a grade penalty. Work which fails to reach the stipulated lower limit for number of pages will also be penalized. (The standard for one type-written page is 250 words, and most word processors have word counting functions.) If you do not own a computer contact Academic Computer Support at 581-5171 and set up an appointment to tour the facility and review their policies. Keep all returned papers for future reference and bring them when you meet with me during the scheduled conferences. Keep all of your essays together in a folder, and always hand in the previous draft with every new version.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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

OFFICE HOURS

Coleman 314A MW 1:30-2:30 PM
(and by appointment)
I don't like the telephone much. The best way to contact me is by e-mail:
cfgah@eiu.edu

English Department