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ENG 1001G-043: Composition and Language

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ENGLISH 1001G: Composition and Language  
Fall 2013  
Coleman Hall 3160  
MWF: 11:00-11:50am

Ms. Emily Bowers  
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~There are no bad writers, only bad workers.~

Required Texts: The Contemporary Reader, 11th edition  
Faigley’s Writing: A Guide for College and Beyond  
A Pocket Style Manual

Course Objective: The purpose of this course is to help you become a better writer and prepare you for the types of writing you will likely encounter in your academic and professional careers. Your final grade will ultimately reflect the amount of work you put into the learning and developing process. Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do all of the following:

- Compose informative, expository, expressive, analytical, and persuasive essays.
- Write clear and concise sentences.
- Thoughtfully evaluate, revise, edit, and proofread your work.
- Understand the research process and how to document sources.
- Discover the way texts have changed with technology and determine how that affects you.

Conduct: Simply put: Respect me, and I’ll respect you. You should come to class prepared to discuss any readings for that day and provide thoughtful analysis of those readings. If there is a writing activity, you should complete the activity thoughtfully and without complaint. Distracting behavior such as texting in class, disruptive talking, or working on homework for other classes will not be appreciated or tolerated.

Electronics: I know it is difficult not to text in class, play 4 pics/1 word, or go on Facebook. However, you’re going to have to try. If you’re out in the quad, for example, and someone is having a conversation with you, it would be very rude to start texting someone else right in the middle of the conversation. What that says to that person is that you would rather be somewhere else, talking to someone else. Now, you don’t want to hurt my feelings, do you? Cell phone usage in class is prohibited. If I catch you using your cell phone, I will deduct points from your participation grade as often as I see the situation recur. This is a writing course, so take some old-fashioned notes. Writing things down has proven to increase retention rates in comparison to type-written notes. (I’m thinking of you here.) You may, however, use a laptop for composition days or to take notes if you prefer.
**Tardiness Policy:** Being late to anything is a sign of disrespect. When you have a job, showing up five minutes late every day is not going to get you employee of the month, and every minute you miss means you cannot fulfill your duties. Your job in this class as a student is to be attentive, engaged with the materials, participatory, and diligent note takers. If you're late, you miss time fulfilling those duties. If you're late three times, it counts as an absence.

**Attendance Policy:** I take attendance, so come to class. You guys are adults, and you pay a lot of money to learn, but you can’t learn anything if you’re not here. Am I right or am I right? (Hint: I am.) I’ll give you three unexcused absences throughout the semester before I start taking points off of your final grade. For every missed class after that, I will take ten points off of your final grade.

**Late Work Policy:** Because technology is awesome now, being sick doesn’t really count as an excuse anymore since you can always send your assignment via email. However, it’s up to you to determine how well you do in the class. Deadlines are set in stone; so, for every day that your paper or assignment is late after that deadline, I’ll lower your assignment grade by one full grade level. (So, if it’s a day late, and you normally would have gotten a score of a 90%, it will be dropped to an 80%). You may, however, have one 24-hour extension throughout the semester on a larger paper only. You need to talk to me first and let me know you are using your extension. You only get one, so use it wisely.

**Revision:** “There are no bad writers, only bad workers.” Revision is necessary to ensuring your success as writers in this course and beyond. Therefore, you must revise the first three major papers you write this semester. I will only provide you comments on your first drafts, and then your final draft will receive a grade based on what you’ve worked to achieve through the writing process. For the last two major papers, you have the option to revise them.

**Grades:** Breakdown by Percent:

- (90-100) = A
- (80-89) = B
- (70-79) = C
- (60-69) = D
- (<59) = F

(Note: For all larger essays, you’ll be given a detailed handout with the specific guidelines of the assignment.)

- Informative Paper – Essay 1: (100 points)
- Rhetorical Analysis Paper (Language Awareness)- Essay 2: (100 points)
- Analyzing an Ad Paper- Essay 3: (100 points)
- Research Paper – Essay 4: (100 points)
- iSearch Paper - Essay 5: (100 points)
- Prezi Presentation: (100 points)
Shorter Papers (approximately 3): (150 points)
Shorter writing activities and quizzes :(100 points)
Participation: (50 points)
Total Points: 900 points

Participation (50 points): Your participation grade will be based on attendance, discussion, writing during composition days, and peer review. Each peer review and composition day is worth five points. Unless excused, absence on a work day will result in a loss of the five points for that day.

Shorter Assignments (100 points): You will complete approximately three shorter papers (2-3 pages) in addition to five larger papers. These shorter papers cannot be revised.

Prezi Presentation (100 points): During the last half of the semester, you will work on a presentation using Prezi instead of PowerPoint. This presentation should be an extension of your Research Paper. You may use Youtube videos or other media as sources (We will review appropriate sources when the time comes.) The purpose of this project is to help you look at the texts that dominate your every day life (e.g. Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Google, etc.) and show their relationship to writing. In other words, how has writing and thinking about writing changed with new technologies?

Writing Activities and Quizzes (100 points): In this class, there will be a number of in-class writing activities and quizzes. As long as you are in class and answer the prompts and questions with thoughtful consideration, you will do just fine. However, you are responsible for those writing activities. If you miss a class activity or quiz, you may not make it up. You may, however, talk to me about a possible short, alternative writing assignment to make up for the activity missed if your absence was excusable. All the writing assignments you complete will comprise a journal of your progress and thoughts over the semester.

Conferences: I will meet with you at least twice during the semester to talk about your papers and drafts, the revision process, and address any other questions you may have. Part of the reason I mandate conferences is so that I can assess your quality of revision and your ability to articulate strengths and weaknesses in your own writing. Of course, if you need to meet with me more than that, I am available by appointment and during my office hours.

Plagiarism: You must properly cite and document all sources used in this class in MLA format. Although we will review MLA formatting in class, please refer to the Writing Center and/or the Purdue Owl website if you do not know how to properly cite your sources or have any questions.
As stated in the official EIU policy:
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 assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the
work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

**Disability Services:** If you have a documented disability, please let me know as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disability Services if you need special accommodations.

**Schedule**
(Notice: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time.)

**Week 1** M 8/19: introductions and syllabus

  W 8/21: Write a letter to future self journal (goals)- writing center/library visit  
  *Reading Assignment:* Intro Contemporary Reader  

  *Reading Assignment:* Faigley ch.1 and ch. 2 (160-165 only)

**Week 2** M 8/26: Hand out Informative Paper assignment. Discuss Faigley readings.

  W 8/28: composition day

  F 8/30: 1st draft Informative Paper due, peer review day. (read aloud)

**Week 3** M 9/2: No Classes (Info Paper due electronically by noon).

  W/R 9/4 – 9/5: Conferences

  F 9/6: in class reflection on info paper (introduce Rhetorical Analysis [Language Awareness Essay])  
  *Reading Assignment:* Contemporary Reader essay and Faigley Ch. 2 (258-275)

**Week 4** M 9/9: Discuss readings, group activity analyzing the Contemporary Reader article using Faigley’s Rhetorical Analysis points.  
*Reading Assignment:* Speech


**Week 5** M 9/16: Journal about what makes a good paper. Grammar/mechanics/MLA/ What makes a good paper? day.  
*Reading Assignment:* Faigley ch. 5 (50-57) and read sample essay and Nancy Sommers’ revision article
W 9/18: Discuss readings. Discuss revision strategies. 

*Reading Assignment:* Contemporary Reader “Which one of these sneakers is me?”


*Assignment:* email or bring an ad to class Monday

**Week 6** M 9/23: Analyzing the ads as a class

W 9/25: comp day

F 9/27: read aloud peer review

**Week 7** M 9/30: First draft Analyzing an Ad due. Introduce short Observation Assignment (2-3 pgs.)

*Reading Assignment:* Contemporary Reader TBA

W 10/2: discuss readings/ journal prompt on readings.

F 10/4: Observation assignment due. Grammar/MLA day/Concerns day

**Week 8** M/T 10/7-10/8: conferences

W 10/9: Introduce short Career Profile Paper (3 pages) in class writing activity/brainstorming

F 10/11: Fall Break - No classes (Final draft Analyzing an Ad due by noon.)

*Reading Assignment:* Faigley’s chs. 26-27

**Week 9** M 10/14: Discuss Faigley readings.

*Reading Assignment:* Faigley ch 28

W 10/16: Short Career Profile assignment due. Discuss Faigley readings.

*Reading Assignment:* Faigley 592-601

F 10/18: Discuss readings. In-class focused writing prompt.

*Reading Assignment:* Faigley page 566-585

**Week 10** M 10/21: Introduce Research Paper/ how to find the “right” sources discuss Faigley finding and evaluating sources (chapters 20 and 21)

W 10/23: computer lab work day finding at least 3 sources
F 10/25: comp day

*Reading Assignment:* Contemporary Reader articles “Streams of Content: Limited Attention,” “You Gotta Have (150) Friends” and “Crafting Your Image for Your 1,000 Facebook Friends”

**Week 11** M 10/28: Discuss Contemporary Reader articles/ in class writing prompt

W 10/30: First draft research paper due. Peer review in class. Focus on correctly incorporated sources.

R/F 10/31-11/1: Conferences

*Reading Assignment:* Faigley ch 14

**Week 12** M 11/4: Final Draft Research Paper due. Discuss Faigley ch 14 and intro to Prezi

W 11/6: lab work day Prezi presentations, intro to Prezi continued

*Reading Assignment:* Faigley Chapters 15-16

F 11/8: Discuss readings and in-class writing on Prezi presentation/process of writing.

**Week 13** M 11/11: Prezi Presentations

W 11/13: Prezi Presentations (for friday: read Contemporary Reader article)

F 11/15: last of Prezi presentations, in class writing reflection, introduce short Instructional Revision assignment

**Week 14:** M 11/18: Instructional Revision assignment (2-3 pages) due. Introduce iSearch paper.

W 11/20: comp day

F 11/22: First section iSearch paper due. In class questions/peer review day

*Reading Assignment:* C.R. essay (TBA)

**Thanksgiving Break** 11/25-11/29 (No classes)

**Week 15** M 12/2: Discuss readings from C.R., in class writing prompt

W 12/4: in-class writing activity - letter to past self, group discussion on activity

F 12/6: Food Party/evaluations

**Week 16** Finals week: iSearch Paper due. Final draft.