ENG 1001G-040-054-059: Composition and Language

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Syllabus for 1001-040, Michael Kuo

English 1001-040, Eastern Illinois University

Composition and Language

MWF; 2:00 to 2:50; CH 3140 (306).

Michael Kuo
348-5529
Office Hours: MWF 1:00 to 2:00 (CH 3840)

General Information

Catalog 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.

Books & Materials

A Pocket Style Manual

5 new 3 1/2" computer disks, formatted, for IBM-compatible PC's.

Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. I will reduce your course grade if attendance becomes a problem, on the following scale: three unexcused absences -- one letter grade; five unexcused absences -- two letter grades; more than six unexcused absences--no credit. Participation affects several of your assignment grades; please see "Assignments" for details.

Late Work

I will not accept late work, unless we have made a previous arrangement.

Plagiarism

I won't tolerate plagiarism.

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.
Games, Surfing, Etc.

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.

Papers in HTML

All written assignments must be produced in Hypertext Mark-Up Language (HTML), as Web pages. Don't worry; it's easy—easier than, say, Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Now that you're totally freaked, let me add this little morsel: I will not teach you, in class, how to make Web pages. However, I have prepared extensive online resources to help you learn on your own. You will be surprised at how easy it is. Printing will not be allowed in class without my permission. This is a writing course, not a Web page design course. Your grade will not suffer if you never figure out how to make a Web page or do any of the other computer stuff we learn. I will, however, not accept your work in printed format until I am satisfied that you have given making Web pages and so on the old college try, seeking help from others and from me.

E-Mail

You may not launch any e-mail program or e-mail Web site (like Hotmail) in class; use your GA e-mail system for class work.

Public Writing

Almost all of the writing you do for this course will be public. It will be published where I, your classmates, your parents, your ex-boyfriend, and anyone using the Internet can read it. My experience teaching writing leads me to believe that having such a public audience substantially helps learning writers. If you think having a real-world audience for your writing may be a problem for you, please contact me VERY, VERY EARLY IN THE SEMESTER so that one of the following can happen: 1) We talk and I convince you to go through with it; 2) We work out arrangements by which you can avoid having a public audience for your writing; or 3) I help you navigate our department's processes so that you can switch to another section.

Computer Access

Computer access is, of course, a huge social justice issue. But it isn't an issue for you in terms of getting your work done for this course. If you think it is, please see me very early in the semester and I will convince you that it isn't—or you will convince me that it is (which has happened once in the past six years).

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.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the 100 points below. 90 to 100 points will receive an A, 80 to 89 will receive a B, 70 to 79 will receive a C, and 0 to 69 will receive an NC (No Credit).
• Homepage: 10 points
• Annotated Links / CIA Memo: 10 points
• College Portfolio Essay: 20 points
• Class Project (Research): 10 points
• Class Project (Writing): 20 points
• College Portfolio Essay Revision: 5 points
• BS Basket: 25 points

Please follow the links under "assignments" for detailed information about each graded item.

Grading of Written Material

I will follow the grading standards suggested by Eastern’s English Department, which I will provide you with. You will notice that the various categories are pretty explicitly detailed, but that the way a teacher weighs each category is left up for grabs. Here is how I will approach weighing the categories:

I will ignore the "Process" category for your Homepage and your Annotated Links / CIA Conspiracy Memo assignments.

I will ignore the "Focus/Meeting the Assignment" grade for all written assignments. Meeting the assignment, it seems to me, is not something to grade; either 1) you did the assignment, 2) you didn't, or 3) you didn’t understand the assignment (or I didn’t communicate clearly) and did something else. The only one of these that’s worth discussing is #3; in this case we will need to talk, and you will need to create something that becomes a #1. As far as "Focus" is concerned, it is clearly very important to your writing--but belongs under "Organization" and "Development." Your paper’s ability to focus (rather than ramble aimlessly, for example) will be graded under the other categories.

I will weigh "Organization," "Style / Awareness of Audience," and "Development" more heavily than "Mechanics." This is not to say I will not weigh mechanics at all (see the next paragraph!). This also doesn’t mean you won’t have to work on mechanics this semester (see "BS Basket," above).

A "C," "D," or "F" in any of the individual categories will conquer the grade for the entire paper; for example, if you have a "C" for mechanics, your paper will get a "C," no matter how good its organization, development, and so on.