ENG 1001G-046: Composition and Rhetoric

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Course Description: This course will offer practice in several modes of discourse, including expression, reflection, analysis and persuasion. While the emphasis is primarily on expository and persuasive writing, the course will also offer an extensive review of and practice in grammar, mechanics, sentence structure and paragraph organization.

Our focus will be on the process of composition: how we begin, invent, present and develop, organize and expand, draft, revise, document, edit and proofread. We shall aspire to writing that is clear, concise, coherent, intelligent and imaginative.

Texts and materials: (Abbreviations refer to the syllabus.)
C. Birkenstein and G. Graff, They Say/I Say (TS/IS), 2nd ed.
S. Greene and A. Lidinsky, From Inquiry to Academic Writing (IAW), 2nd ed.
L. Peterson, et. al., The Norton Reader (NR), 13th ed.
Webster's New World Dictionary
A journal (preferably bound if handwritten and legible!)
A folder with pockets: keep all assignments, exercises, handouts, drafts, graded essays, syllabus and so on until the completion of the course...copies of formally submitted essays are a good idea—electronic or hardcopy or both—for your own protection.

Handouts (distributed in class)

Course format: I shall use discussion as the primary means of coming to terms with the course readings and offer mini-lectures to provide views supplemental to those in the texts. Exercises, in-class and as assigned homework, will be used on an ongoing basis as necessary. Small group workshops will be used to develop revision skills. Conferences are optional—unless specifically requested in which case they are mandatory. Please note that the syllabus is merely a guide and subject to change to suit whatever needs arise: if you cannot attend, you should check with a classmate or me to keep track of any changes.

I encourage you to request a conference whenever you feel that one might be useful in improving your writing abilities or enhancing your participation in the course. Those of you who discover lingering, particularly troublesome problems should make use of the Writing Center (Coleman Hall 3110) and may be requested to do so.

Course requirements and grading:

Mode of discourse and length: Due date: % of Grade:

Essays:
#1: Expression (2-3 pp) R 9/6 5%
#2: Reflection (2-3 pp) R 9/13 5%
#3: Description (2-3 pp) R 9/20 5%
#4: Narration (3-4 pp) R 10/11 10%
#5: Process analysis (3-4 pp) R 10/18 10%
#6: Definition (3-4 pp) R 11/1 10%
#7: Comparison and contrast (3-4 pp) R 11/15 10%
#8: Argument and persuasion (5-6 pp) R 12/6 15%
Journal: Throughout the semester and on at least a weekly basis—more frequently will be better practice than writing less often—you should develop 45-50 pages in which you practice expressive and reflective writing. Record details of your observations about anything that interests you; reflect on and focus them; explore and expand on your ideas; probe your feelings; elaborate your "hunches and notions." I shall evaluate the journal as draft writing—no revision is necessary. You may keep them on a computer but have a back-up copy, and print it out periodically or as requested for submission. You may keep a handwritten journal, but it must be legible if you wish credit for it. These will be requested periodically throughout the semester with at least one class day's notice—you do not need to bring them to class. Final submission is on Thursday, November 29. (15%)

Participation and involvement: Ongoing evaluation (15%)

This component of the grading includes exercises, quizzes, participation in workshops and discussions, thoroughness of revision, degree of improvement, and other minor but crucial tasks and considerations as are pertinent to the constant and consistent development of your writing skills. Attendance, in this respect, would seem a necessity for your participation.

Office Hours: Phone: (217) 581-2428 (Please, leave a message.)
E-mail: mdloudon@eiu.edu; TR 1-2; W 10-12; or by appointment

General Policies:

Grading Standards: I shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. In all cases, I shall use a plus and minus system to distinguish, say, a high B from a low one.

Attendance: I do take roll, and I evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course.

Conferences: These are at your request unless I ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last couple of weeks of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, course and section number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an A essay due on Friday will be an F by the next Thursday. If there are particular difficulties, please see me.

Plagiarism: The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the representation of them as one's own 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 course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.
ENG 1001G.046: Composition and Rhetoric—Syllabus

August
T 21: Course Introduction
   Assignment: Diagnostic essay—from confinement to freedom in writing and thinking
R 23: Interviews for diagnostic “report”

T 28: Invention and Re-vision—breaking free; asking questions and reading as a writer; diagnostic due.
   Greene and Lidinsky, From Inquiry to Academic Writing (IAW): Chapter 1
R 30: (IAW): Chapter 2
   Essay #1: Expression (assigned)

September
T  4: The Norton Reader (NR): 84-95—on journals
R  6: IAW (Chapter 3)
   Essay #1 DUE; Essay #2: Reflection (assigned)

T 11: NR: Douglass (346-350) and Holt (358-366)
R 13: IAW (Chapter 4)
   Essay #2 DUE; Essay #3: Description (assigned)

T 18: IAW (Chapter 5)
R 20: NR: Baldwin (304-313)
   Essay #3 DUE

[Complete syllabus after seeing diagnostic essays due 8/28]