Spring 1-15-2009

ENG 1002G-021: Composition and Literature

Andrew Eichel
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2009

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2009/35

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2009 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2009 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Andrew Eichel  
Office #2110  
ateichel@eiu.edu  

1002 Course Syllabus and Policies

Purpose:  
The purpose of this course is not to force-feed you unnecessary skills. Instead, I am aiming to arm you with the tools you will need to produce proper academic writing at Eastern Illinois University and beyond. This will only work if you take an interest and actively participate in the course. To help you acquire vital reading, writing, and analytical skills, we will be reading poetry and a number of short stories; the final part of the semester will be spent on Hamlet. There will be a number of other activities, including discussion, grammar exercises, vocabulary tests, group work, and anything I deem necessary. I am here for you, so take advantage of my experience to learn something useful that you will use for the rest of your life. While literature is an integral component of the class, 1002 is first and foremost a writing course, so be prepared to do a lot, both in and out of class.

Writing for the Class:  
You will be writing 5 essays, each 3 pages long (And when I say 3, I do not mean 2.5! Short papers will automatically be deducted two letter grades). As we will be doing substantial in-class writing, I do not feel that 6-page essays are necessary. The assignments will involve class readings and discussion and will call for original idea bound by the precepts of academic writing. Your final project will consist of a portfolio of 2 of these essays revised and given to me as perfect as they can be. In-class writing will take place at the beginning of the hour, and for 10-15 minutes you will critically respond or react to the week’s readings. You should then use that writing to add to class discussion and, hopefully, find something to aid producing your longer essay assignments. Keep these in a required notebook to be handed in every Thursday we meet as a class.

Absences:  
Let me stress that this is your course – you will decide what we do and how we do it. That being said, you cannot learn if you do not come to class. I am a student so I know how it works: false reasons for missing class will not be tolerated. Obviously, things can come up, but I will want documented proof of your reason, be it legal, medical, or university-related. For me the magic number is three: you get three unexcused absences before your grade takes a hit. Four absences and you lose your Attendance points; five and you lose your Participation points. If you miss six or more you fail the course. No exceptions. Also, unless you have an excused absence, please see your fellow classmates about what you have missed.

Plagiarism:  
It should go without saying that copying (cheating) will not be accepted in the class. You are expected to produce original work, not copy and paste stuff from random websites. If I think you are committing plagiarism it is my right – and duty – to report you to Judicial Affairs. From there, you could be facing expulsion from EIU. So, rather than risking your academic career, just do your own work.
Participation:
Again, this is tied very directly to every other aspect of this course. We can have a lot of fun together if you put forth the effort that I ask for, or you can spend 16 grueling weeks trying to find reasons to skip class. Coming to class doesn’t just mean sitting at a desk – you must actively participate during in-class discussions on a daily basis. I want your thoughts, your comments, and your opinions; when we have in-class writings you must fulfill the requirements; when we do group work each member must contribute individually and substantially. This class depends on communication between all of us, and by keeping quiet you are creating the worst possible atmosphere for our purposes.

Late Assignments:
Again, I understand that your life doesn’t revolve around our class. However, this is a required course and I expect you to treat it as such. You have one week to hand in a late assignment, minus a letter grade for each day late. After one week you receive a zero for the assignment. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Conferences:
We will meet twice for one-on-one conversations during the semester. These will count as class time, which means if you miss a conference it is the same as missing two classes. I expect you to come to conferences willing and ready to talk about your writing and the class. This will also be a great time to personally take advantage of me as a writer and teacher – bring questions about anything.

Email:
While I realize everyone may not have a computer at home, this is the Age of Technology – we will take advantage of this and communicate through email often. Please get used to checking your inbox regularly, as I will keep in touch through this medium. If, for example, you missed class, you will have a list of everyone’s email and you can then find out what we did in the time you were gone.

Required Texts:
For this class we will be using both Poetry: A Pocket Anthology, Short Fiction: Classic and Contemporary. However, I will possibly bring in outside sources. In order for you to participate, you must, of course, come to class prepared with the required reading/assignment ready. If you do not bring your book then you are not a part of the class and I will count you as absent.

Questions?
We can discuss and communicate and interact and walk away from this course having learned something, or you can make each class drag by. My office hours are Monday 2-3:30pm, Tuesday/Thursday 1-2pm, but feel free to schedule a meeting with me for other times. Come and talk to me about anything and everything – that is what I am here for. Let me know if something about the course doesn’t feel right, or if you really need some extra help with something. I will respond to you as long as you are doing what I ask in the class room.
- Percentage Break-down (subject to change if needed):

  Attendance – 10%
  Reading Quizzes – 10%
  In-Class Writing – 15%
  Participation – 15%
  Essays – 30%
  Final Portfolio – 20%

Schedule of Assignments & Readings
(This is open to change at anytime depending on the needs of the class)

Week 1 (13/15):
- Introductory Stuff—Diagnostic Writing & HW
- Interview & Diagnostic Writing; Personal Questions

Week 2 (20/22):
- “The Wanderer,” (x2); Poems on Hand-out; In-class writing & discussion of course themes
- “Beowulf,” parts; Anglo-Saxon Riddles; Poems—TBA; Citing Poetry; Essay Assignment #1