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ENG 1092-098: Composition and Literature (Honors)

R. Beebe
Eastern Illinois University

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ENGLISH 1092G
Composition & Literature (Honors)

Course Description

English 1092G is a freshman honors writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression, using literary and cultural texts as the gateway to discussion and inquiry. While this course is first and foremost a writing course, its premise is that good writing comes from sustained inquiry in an intellectually rich and cooperative environment. In short, this course is designed to challenge your critical thinking skills and assumptions as it prepares you for your college career. (See Learning Goals below.)

Writing Assignments & Grading

You will complete five writing projects over the course of the semester, projects that will vary in complexity, format, and/or writing style. You will receive an assignment sheet for each project, indicating due dates, activities, and expectations. While I will set guidelines for each project, in most cases I allow you some flexibility in both the topics you choose and the manner in which you explore the topic.

The five writing assignments comprise approximately 65% of your final grade, with the remaining 35% comprised of minor writing assignments, quizzes, participation, and a final exam.

In other words, to receive a passing grade in this class, you not only need to perform satisfactorily on the major writing projects, but you also need to perform satisfactorily on in-class work, participation, and quizzes.

I allow revisions of the major writing projects, providing that (1) you have turned the paper in on time and (2) that you meet with me for a conference to discuss your revision.

Participation & Attendance

This is not a lecture course. The writing projects extend from our discussions and substantial class time is devoted to your writing and to understanding underlying concepts of the writing projects. It’s vital that you’re present to participate and follow the discussion.

In this regard, I usually allow 2-3 personal days. Thereafter, you will lose 5% from your final grade for each unexcused
Participation & Attendance (continued)

Six or more unexcused absences will automatically result in a grade of "No Credit" (NC).

Conferences
If you are having any problems with a paper, I encourage you to come by and see me during my office hours or make an appointment for a more convenient time. I will be more than happy to talk any number of times about a single paper or particular writing problem.

Classroom Etiquette
You're welcome to bring your notebook computer to class. However, I ask that you observe common rules of etiquette and decorum when you use it. In brief, you may use it to take notes or complete an in-class writing activity. You may not use it for anything not directly related to class work.

Please turn off (or mute) cell phones. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, please refrain from using your phone during class.

Electronic Writing Portfolio
This course is a writing-centered course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. EWP guidelines insist that you complete your submission prior to the last day of class. Talk to me if you have any questions about this or consult the EWP website.

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.

Course Schedule & Due Dates
When we begin each major writing project, I will hand out a detailed writing assignment that will include a schedule of daily activities, reading and brief writing assignments, and quizzes.

So you can plan ahead. The approximate due dates for the major papers and final exam are listed in the right-hand column.

Plagiarism
Since the university is a place of ideas, discussion, and reflection, it views plagiarism—the taking of others' ideas as one's own—very harshly. The penalty for plagiarizing is swift and severe. You will receive an immediate F for the course and notice will be given to the Office of Student Standards.

If you have any questions about plagiarism—however small—please talk to me before you turn in your work.

Approximate Due Dates
Project 1    Feb 10
Project 2    Feb 26
Project 3    Mar 24
Project 4    Apr 2
Project 5    May 1

Final Exam    May 4th 10:15-12:15
Course Learning Goals

English 1092G is writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts.

Primary goals include . . .

• write expository and persuasive papers throughout the semester (a minimum of 5,000 words) in which paragraphs, sentences, and words develop a central idea (writing, speaking, critical thinking)
• read poetry, fiction, and drama expressing a wide range of cultural perspectives and values and develop abilities to think critically and write analytically about them (writing, speaking, critical thinking)
• engage in reading and writing experiences about literature in order to demonstrate an increased understanding of and appreciation for social, cultural, intellectual, and aesthetic ideas and their discovery (writing, critical thinking, citizenship)
• develop research skills, including effective use of source materials and principles of documentation (writing, critical thinking)
• develop skills in revising their own writing by participating in peer review workshops and by revising one of their essays for possible inclusion into their electronic writing portfolio (writing, critical thinking).