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English 1001G: Composition and Language

Course Description
English 1001 is a writing-centered course designed to prepare students for the rigors of academic writing. This course emphasizes reading and thinking critically, researching effectively and writing authoritatively.

Course Objectives
Writing is simply a well-designed, audience-oriented conversation controlled, at least initially, by the writer. Students will develop and/or hone their writing processes through a series of polished, thesis-driven essays that demonstrate an ability to write with clarity, organization and awareness of audience. Students will integrate and document appropriate sources using MLA guidelines.

Texts
Writing Analytically, Rosenwasser & Stephon (WA)
EasyWriter (handbook)
Norton Reader, Peterson & Brereton

Additional Resources
You are welcome to call, visit or e-mail me with any questions. If you would like additional help with grammar, mechanics or MLA documentation, the OWL and the Writing Center are both great resources.

Online:
Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

On Campus:
Writing Center
3110 Coleman Hall

Electronic Writing Portfolio
You must submit one piece of writing from either English 1001 or 1002 to an EWP. If you’d like to submit a paper from this class, go to http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php to get the form (which I must sign).
Requirements
Participation: Come to class prepared to contribute to discussions; ideally, this class will be fun, relaxed and heavily discussion-oriented, and students who attend and participate regularly will be rewarded. Points for in-class writing and reading quizzes are also added into the participation portion of your grade.

Group Work: Writing an audience-savvy essay requires feedback from an audience, so we will be workshopping essays in groups. Please be a tactful and courteous reader.

Writing: It’s a fact—the more you do it, the better you get. We will, therefore, do a lot of writing. We’ll do in-class exercises, journaling and reader’s response, and mid-process and final drafts of the required essays. Many short assignments won’t be listed on the syllabus. If you miss class, contact a classmate to get the assignment.

Portfolios: Portfolios (due during finals week) reflect improvement over the course of the semester and are graded on effort. They’re optional. We’ll talk more about this in class.

Conferences: The last two papers are a more significant portion of your grade than the first three; we’ll have conferences between the third and fourth papers to discuss your progress. A missed conference counts as a missed class.

Policies
Attendance: Three absences won’t affect your grade; more than that, unless you’ve discussed it with me in advance, will result in a lowered participation grade. A substantial number of unexcused absences (more than five) will lower your course grade.

Academic Honesty: We will work extensively with integrating and documenting sources, and students will be responsible for giving credit to authors whose words/ideas they use. The English Department’s statement on plagiarism:

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 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 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.

If you have any questions regarding proper documentation/citation of sources, see me. Do not turn in an essay that is (accidentally or deliberately) plagiarized.

Late Work: Due dates for major assignments are in the course schedule. Late work will drop a third of a grade for each day. If you need an extension on a paper, come and see me. Extensions will be given only through conferences and must be approved in advance.

Graded Work: I will return writing prompts by the next class and papers in one week.
Evaluation
Grades will be based on the following criteria:
Portfolios 10%
In-class Writings/Participation/Attendance 20%
Papers I, II, III 30%  
Papers IV and V 40%

Course Schedule
(Readings are due by the date they are scheduled on; we will be discussing them in class on those days. Bring your text to class.)

Week 1
August 21: Introduction to course and policies/in-class writing
August 23: Norton: “Thinking as a Hobby” pg 217
August 25: WA: Rhetorical Analysis pg 69-73

Week 2
August 28: WA: pgs 1-16 & Prompt due
August 30: Norton: “Letter to his Son” pg 644
September 1: Norton: “Advice to Youth” pg 647

Week 3
September 4: Labor Day. No class.
September 6: Norton: “College is a Waste of Time and Money” pg 429
Peer reviews: bring mid-process drafts to class
September 8: Paper I due: Booth Library Tour

Week 4
September 14: Norton: “Looking at Women” pg 245
September 16: Norton: “Going to the Movies” pg 1097

Week 5
September 18: Norton: “The Holy Use of Gossip” pg 181
September 20: Norton: “Beer Can” pg 564 & “Little Lightnings” pg 1085
September 22: Norton: “Moving Along” pg 1087

Week 6
September 25: WA: Chapter 5
September 27: Workshop: bring mid-process drafts to class.
September 29: Paper II due & bring WA book to class, pg 83

Week 7
October 2: Norton: “Salvation” pg 1125 & WA: pg 208-217
October 4: Norton: “The Mystery of Zen” pg 1191
October 6: Norton: “Existentialism” pg 1199

Week 8
October 9: Norton: “Reading Philosophy at Night” pg 1208
October 11: WA: Chapter 10
October 13: Fall Break. No Class.
Week 9  October 16: *WA*: Chapter 8 &
          October 18: Workshop: bring mid-process drafts to class.
          October 20: Paper III due and bring *EasyWriter* handbook to class.

Week 10  October 23: No Class/Conferences
          October 25: No Class/Conferences
          October 27: No Class/Conferences

          November 1: Read and bring in a major newspaper (or get an article
          online) with a persuasive article/editorial.
          Write a double-spaced one-page response. Cite your source.

Week 12  November 6: *Norton*: “Thank God for the Atom Bomb” pg 724
          November 8: *WA*: Chapter 9
          November 10: Choice

Week 13  November 13: Workshop: bring mid-process drafts to class.
          November 15: Paper IV due
          November 17: *WA*: Chapter 13

November 20th – 24th: Thanksgiving Break. No Class.

Week 14  November 27: In-class research workshop
          November 29: *WA*: Chapter 12
          December 1: In-class revision workshop

Week 15  December 4: Workshop: Peer reviews/Bring drafts to class
          December 6: Wrap up
          December 8: Final Research Paper (V) due

Finals Week  December 11-15: Portfolios* due by December 12th.
          Regarding Portfolio Submission:

*If your writing has improved over the course of the semester, and you’d like an
opportunity to raise your grade slightly to make up for a weak paper, you may turn in a
portfolio. You must turn in all five of your final drafts, because I want to see your
progress over the semester. If you had a weak grade on your first or second paper, and
your work has gotten better, I will assess your progress and your *effort* will become part
of your final grade.

This is not an opportunity to revise papers to change their grades – it’s just a
chance for you to show me that you’ve worked hard to improve as a writer. You should
clean up mechanical errors or weak spots in the essays you turn in to me, *but turning in a
portfolio will not change the grade of any individual paper.*