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ENG 1001G-049: Composition and Language

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English 1001G – 049: Composition and Language
Fall 2008
TR 3:30 – 4:45; CH 3150
Professor Richard Sylvia
Office: Coleman 3775
Office Hours: TR 9:30 – 10:30 am; 2:00 – 3:00 pm; and by appt.
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Course Description, Design, and Goals: English 1091G is a course in expository writing designed to improve your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. I have structured the course around your completion of five essay assignments, for each of which I will distribute a detailed assignment sheet. I have also assigned several readings from The Norton Reader to supplement our discussions of these writing assignments. See Tentative Schedule below.

Two of the five essays will be longer – minimum 1500 words – and will require documented research using MLA style. For the three others – minimum 750 words – research will be optional. Your grade will be based on your performance on these writing assignments, which includes participation in class workshops and attendance at conference meetings. See Grading below.

The goal throughout the semester is for you to produce writing that develops purposefully and economically. This is not an easy task for anyone. Consistent effort in revision — and in helping your classmates revise — is the best guarantee of success.


Course Requirements:
1) completion of five essay assignments, at least two of which require use of secondary print and internet sources, and of workshop response sheets

2) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings

3) participation in class workshops on a regular basis

4) attendance at all scheduled conferences

(You must complete successfully all the work listed above to pass the course.)

Grading: The five required essays will count for 90% of your grade; class participation will count for the remaining 10%. The two longer papers will count for 30% each and the three shorter papers for 10% each. I will grade each essay on a 100 point scale and
your final grade on a 100 point scale (A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59). Final grades for this course below 70 are officially recorded as NC (no credit).

**Course Policies:** Try to meet deadlines. Generally, I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, speak to me before it is due. I am not inflexible. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Scheduled conferences and classroom workshops are required. Though I do not have an attendance policy, I will mark down your essay one full letter if you do not participate in workshops, and you obviously cannot earn the 10% for class participation without attending class regularly.

Missing a scheduled conference with me without excuse means an automatic F for the current essay assignment. Three conference meetings are required. See **Tentative Schedule**.

All essays ready for grading must be submitted in hard copy. All drafts for workshop classes must be presented in hard copy.

There is no mid-term or final for this course. You will have clear indication from the beginning, however, of my evaluation of your performance in the course, since I will grade each essay within one week of submission. The first essay is due Sept. 9.

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.

English Department 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) – 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."

**Tentative Schedule:**
Aug. 26: course introduction


Sept. 2: workshop essay #1

Sept. 4: workshop essay #1

Sept. 9: **essay #1 due**

Sept. 11: Tom Wolfe, “Yaeger”; Scott Sanders, “Under the Influence”; **essay #2 assigned**
Sept. 16: workshop essay #2

Sept. 18: workshop essay #2

Sept. 23: essay #2 due


Sept. 30: Scheduled Conferences; No Class Meeting

Oct. 2: Scheduled Conferences; No Class Meeting

Oct. 7: workshop essay #3

Oct. 9: workshop essay #3

Oct. 14: essay #3 due


Oct. 21: workshop essay #4

Oct. 23: workshop essay #4

Oct. 28: essay #4 due

Oct. 30: Scheduled Conferences; No Class Meeting

Nov. 4: Scheduled Conferences; No Class Meeting

Nov. 6: Barbara Tuchman, “‘This Is the End of the World’”; H. Bruce Franklin, “From Realism to Virtual Reality: Images of America’s Wars”; essay #5 assigned

Nov. 11: workshop essay #5

Nov. 13: workshop essay #5

Nov. 18: essay #5 due

Nov. 20: reading to be announced

Nov. 25 and Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2: reading to be announced
Dec. 4: reading to be announced

Dec. 9: Scheduled Conferences; No Class Meeting

Dec. 11: Scheduled Conferences; No Class Meeting