ENG 1001G-071-072-073: Composition and Language

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ENGLISH 1001G
Course Syllabus, Fall 2002

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COURSE SUMMARY

English 1001G (Composition and Language) is a “writing-centered” course in which we’ll explore the writing process and the qualities of effective writing, using various strategies for writing essays. The course will include both reading and written assignments, incorporating lecture, peer evaluation, and individual conferences to guide you through the completion of five essays. Grammar and punctuation will be reviewed as the need arises.

Note: Students who have an ACT score in English of 14 or below, or who have no test scores on file with the university, must pass English 1000 before enrolling in English 1001G.

TEXTS

The Bedford Reader, 7th Edition, Kennedy/Kennedy/Aaron
Webster’s New World Dictionary

MATERIALS

Notebook(s) for in-class writing, ideas and notes (bring to each class)
Computer disks for saving your printed work
Pocket folder(s) for submitting your work
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students will write five 3-to-4-page essays, computer-generated (or typewritten) and double-spaced. For each essay, you will produce a first draft and a revision, both of which must be submitted together in a pocket folder on the revision due date to receive a grade. Grading for the revised essay be based on the following: effectiveness of the assigned “strategy” (description, comparison/contrast, etc.), clarity and focus, organization and development, style and originality, and mechanics (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.), as well as the substantiality and effectiveness of the revision.

NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you fail to turn in a first draft on the date it is due, you are on your own; that is, you will not receive the benefit of peer evaluation or my valuable comments and will be graded on whatever rough draft you turn in when the revision is due. If no paper is turned in on the revision due date, you will receive 0 points for that paper. Also, if you fail to turn in either a first draft or a revision, I will consider your lack of effort in determining your final grade for the course.

Essays will be given the following weight: Essay 1: 50 points possible; Essays 2 through 4: 100 points possible each; Essay 5: 150 points possible

Your final essay grade, therefore, will be determined on a 500-point scale:

500 to 450 = A; 449 to 400 = B; 399 to 350 = C; 349 and below = NC

In order to pass this course, you must receive points equal to a C or higher. Students with a point total below a C will receive NC (no credit) on their final grade report. There is no final exam for this class.

ATTENDANCE AND EFFORT

Coming to class on time, paying attention in class, and completing reading and written assignments will also be heavily considered in determining your final grade for the course.

I will allow four unexcused absences throughout the semester; after that, I will drop your grade by one letter for each additional absence. Seven absences will automatically earn you an NC for the course. If you are ill, please call me ahead of time and we’ll make arrangements for you to make up a missed assignment. If you need to be absent from class because of school sports, please let me know early in the semester and provide documentation if possible. Be aware that any unexcused absence may result in a missed assignment, which I do not allow to be made up. I expect you to come to class on time. If I notice a pattern of lateness, I will begin to mark you absent if you are 10 or more minutes late to class.
PLAGIARISM

Your work is expected to be your own, and I’ll question any writing that does not seem to be “in your own voice.” 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 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 assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center, at 301 Coleman Hall, is there to help you with all aspects of your writing. Occasionally, I may refer you to the Writing Center if you are having trouble with a particular essay or you need additional help with grammar, punctuation, etc. But feel free to stop by the center on your own.

The Writing Center also assists students with Electronic Writing Portfolio submissions.

ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO

All students must submit a document from 1001G or 1002G as part of their Electronic Writing Portfolio, a university requirement for graduation. Although this submission is your responsibility, I’ll make suggestions for any essay you write in this class that qualifies for inclusion in your EWP.
SCHEDULE

**Week 1:** Introduction and writing samples, begin Description

**Week 2:** (NO CLASS Mon. 9/2) Description – discussion, readings, exercises

**Week 3:** Work on Description essay, first draft due

**Week 4:** Editing/revision, writing effectively

**Week 5:** Description revision due, begin Process Analysis

**Week 6:** Process Analysis first draft due, blind peer evaluation, work on revision

**Week 7:** CONFERENCES – bring Process Analysis revision with first draft

**Week 8:** (NO CLASS Fri. 10/18) Begin Example

**Week 9:** Work on Example essay, first draft due

**Week 10:** Begin Comparison/Contrast

**Week 11:** Comparison/Contrast first draft due, peer evaluation, begin Argument/Persuasion, Example revision due

**Week 12:** Work on Argument/Persuasion essay, first draft due

**Week 13:** CONFERENCES – bring Comparison/Contrast revision with first draft

**Week 14:** NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS

**Week 15:** Argument/Persuasion revision due

**Week 16:** More about writing and reading; final paper returned

This schedule is subject to change, depending on various needs and the pace of the class. Specific reading and written assignments, as well as exact essay due dates, will be given as the semester goes along.