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ENG 1002G-048-054-064: Composition and Literature

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Welcome to English 1002. I am sorry that I will be unable to meet classes for the first few days. I am doing some research for two books I am writing for the University of Michigan Press. Fortunately (for me, anyway), the books are called 100 Edible Mushrooms and 100 Cool Mushrooms, which means that my research consists of crawling through the redwood forests of sunny northern California on my hands and knees, looking for edible and cool mushrooms to take pictures of and study. I will return next week, and we'll start class on Thursday the 20th.

In the meantime, I have an assignment for you. Three assignments, really. The first is easy: please print up a copy of this syllabus and go over the policies carefully—and be prepared to ask any questions you have on the 20th. The other assignments are reading assignments, and they're not short—so don't wait until the last minute (don't worry; they're not, like, book-length texts, either). We will have several reading assignments this semester that are online. Since these are the first two, I need to let you know that I require you to print up the assignments and bring them to class—preferably, with marks and annotations you have made for things you have questions about, or things you found interesting. I realize that there may be a cost associated with printing so many pages. But later in the semester I will show you a way to print long documents for free (even your papers)—so your (minor) cash outlay for printing up these two assignments will be more than made back over your college career. Yay!

Here are the two assignments:

**Narrative of the Capture and Subsequent Sufferings of Mrs. Rachel Plummer**

**Extracts from the Journal of Christopher Columbus**

The Columbus text is all on one Web page. The Plummer text requires some clicking and printing of subsequent pages (it looks like there are going to be about 22 links, from "The Attack on the Fort and Mrs. Plummer's Capture" to "Mrs. Plummer's Closing Address," but when you start clicking it turns out to be three separate Web pages).

Please mark up your texts. If you have questions, mark them. Please pay special attention to the way the authors describe animals and plants, and the way they describe people they encounter who are not from their own cultures. Mark these places in the texts. Also: *Do you believe the authors at all times, or are there times when you distrust what they are telling you?*

I realize that these texts are a little hard to get through (there are long-winded passages that don't seem very relevant). But be patient, and read carefully. The texts are actually fascinating once you start thinking seriously about them.

See you on the 20th.

... Michael
A writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. Prerequisite: English 1001C.

Books & Materials

The handbook you received from the Textbook Library. Also the poetry book, the fiction book, and the drama book.

Attendance

After 17 years of teaching, I'm tired of having to act like a police officer instead of a teacher. In this course we will spend most of our class time discussing things that we have read (or viewed), and nothing is worse than sitting there with a bunch of people who have not read the assignment and don't care about what we're discussing. I do not want you to come to class if you haven't read the assignment, and/or if you're not ready to participate in an engaging and interesting discussion.

So there is no attendance policy for this class. Your grade (see below) will be based on three papers and two tests—each worth a fifth of your grade. I imagine that it would be possible to do well on the papers without ever coming to class. The tests, however, will be essay tests based solely on our class discussions; if you have missed a lot of classes, I can't imagine you will do very well on them.

Late Work

I will not accept late work, unless we have made a previous arrangement.

Plagiarism

I won't tolerate plagiarism.

Computer Access

Computer access is, of course, a huge social justice issue. But it isn't an issue for you in terms of getting your work done for this course. If you think it is, please see me very early in the semester and I will convince you that it isn't—or you will convince me that it is (which has happened once in the past seven years).

Students with Disabilities

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

E-Mail

You are welcome to send me e-mail. Since I receive so much e-mail, however, you are required to put your full name and an appropriate subject phrase in the message's subject line. Otherwise, I might not read your message. It would be smart to keep a copy of every e-mail you send me—by putting your own address in the "cc" line, or some other means.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on the 100 points below. 90 to 100 points will receive an A, 80 to 89 will receive a B, 70 to 79 will receive a C, and 0 to 69 will receive an NC (No Credit).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The details of these assignments will be posted online and discussed in class.

Grading of Written Material

I will follow the grading standards suggested by Eastern's English Department. You will notice that the various categories are pretty explicitly detailed, but that the way a teacher weighs each category is left up for grabs. In this class:
A "C," "D," or "F" in any of the individual categories will conquer the grade for the entire paper; for example, if you have a "C" for mechanics, your paper will get a "C," no matter how good its organization, development, and so on.

The lowest "A" grade will reflect a paper that receives an "A" in all categories but one, in which it receives a "B."

The "Process" category will not be considered in your grade.