SYLLABUS - ENG 2001: Beginning Nonfiction
MWF, 1:00PM – 1:50PM || Coleman Hall 3159

Professor: Dr. Ruben Quesada  Email: rmquesada@eiu.edu
Office: Coleman Hall 3362  Office Hours: M 11:00AM – 1:00PM // W 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM & by appointment

OVERVIEW
This course will explore nonfiction writing through a number of writing exercises, reading nonfiction writing, and discussion of student work. Students will produce original writing in various forms (narrative, expository, informative, and investigative). This course will include the reading of craft theory, criticism, and creative work, including digital texts.

OBJECTIVES
• Write and speak effectively about the elements, styles, and forms of the essay.
• Think critically about how to write nonfiction.
• Analyze and evaluate nonfiction essays for form and content.

REQUIREMENTS, 100%
40% = 4 original essays of 3000 – 5000 words (narrative, expository, informative, investigative)
20% = 4 video posts of yourself presenting your essay on D2L
10% = Social Media Participation
30% = Final Portfolio

FINAL PORTFOLIO (DUE MAY 1, 12:00PM VIA EMAIL)
4 revisions of essays w/ copies of ORIGINAL COMMENTS
4 revised video recording posts of yourself reading your own work on D2L

TEXTS

DISSCUSIONS will run on your educated/thoughtful comments. You should always be ready to participate. Your participation is meant to help you develop ideas for assignments. I encourage you to take notes as you read and in class. Pay attention to the connections between the texts. Write down any questions that may come up while you’re reading.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Students are required to create and use a Twitter (twitter.com) account to actively respond to the texts. Students must follow: @EIUnonfiction for updates and in order to receive credit for their participation. Students are required to tweet a total of sixty (60) tweets by the end of the semester. Tweets should include reactions, questions, or citations of poetry, followed by author’s last name (e.g. #Elliott).

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
You may use electronic devices for relevant and appropriate reading, note taking, or social media participation, related to the course. You must turn off the sound to your devices (phone, computer, etc.) before instruction begins. If your device goes off in class, your participation grade will be affected. Be respectful of others and their work, particularly during lectures or presentations. If you are disrespectful, you may be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that class period.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT STANDARDS
All prose assignments must be typed and formatted to MLA Formatting and Style Guidelines http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/. Assignments not following these directions will NOT be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. Attention: Un-typed or improperly formatted assignments will not be considered acceptable for submission. Handwritten work is considered incomplete and should never be submitted as acceptable work. Please proofread all written work for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors, as a clean, error-free essay suggests respect for the time and effort your instructor will spend reading your work. For additional assistance with your assignments visit EIU’s Writing Center.

WRITING CENTER
I encourage you to use EIU’s Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support,
documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the Center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929. The writing center is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. On Friday hours of operation are 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Regular attendance is mandatory; your grade will be impacted after two (2) absences. Absences on due dates will not excuse the submission of the assignment; assignments must be present even if you’re not. Attendance is recorded daily; absences will substantially hurt your grade. **Missed assignments will receive zero points.**

E-MAIL/COMMUNICATION

You may e-mail me at: rmquesada@eiu.edu. Typically, I check e-mail periodically, Monday – Friday. I will respond to any emails that I receive over the weekend on Monday morning. I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communication with me, including in email.

E-mail messages you would like me to answer should include last name and class name in the subject line: [Your Last Name] - English 1001. Your message should begin with a greeting (Dear Dr. Quesada,) and it should end with your signature (Sincerely.). **BE ADVISED:** I am unlikely to respond to e-mails that are improperly formatted or that ask questions you can answer for yourself.

OFFICE HOURS

I am available during office hours or by appointment only. Topics suitable for discussion during office hours include, but are not limited to: help revising assignments, clarification on assignments, brainstorming on assignment topics when relevant, concerns about commentary and/or grades, and quandaries about English in general. You may also set up an appointment with me via email. The condition to those appointments is that you must attend an appointment you set up, or notify me via email of your impending failure to attend within 2 hours of your appointment. If you miss your appointment & fail to notify me, it will affect your participation grade.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

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 assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to Student Standards. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources. Plagiarism means taking the words or ideas of another person and passing them off as your own. To avoid it, take special care when using outside sources (including Internet sites): if you incorporate such material into your work, you must follow MLA Guidelines.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as early in the term as possible if you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Responsible citizenship among college students includes honesty and integrity in class work; regard for the rights of others; and respect for local, state, and federal laws as well as campus standards. Demonstrating courtesy to others is important in this class. Problems with inappropriate behavior will result in your dismissal from class and will adversely affect your grade. Conduct includes arriving prepared and on time.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Course syllabus is subject to change.