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ENG 1091G-095: Composition and Language

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Course Description and Design: English 1091G is an accelerated course in expository writing, accelerated because, as honors students, you have already acquired dependable writing skills that will allow us to move at a faster pace than in a non-honors course. You will have two weeks to complete each of six essay assignments, which will include classroom discussion of the assignment, collaborative peer review of essay drafts, and extensive revision before submission of each finished essay. In the computer lab, where we will meet every other week, your time will be spent either writing or revising your work, or helping a classmate in your work group to revise. When we are in the regular classroom, we will discuss assigned readings, writing assignments, and general issues of writing competency. The goal throughout the semester is to produce writing that develops purposefully and economically, that is clear, direct, and concise. This will take considerable and consistent effort on your part, and I will do everything that I can to help you succeed.

Texts: The Norton Reader, 10th edition
The Blair Handbook

Requirements: six essays (minimum 750 words), three of which will require some research; I will distribute an assignment sheet for each essay preparation for discussion of the readings in The Norton Reader as assigned attendance at all scheduled conferences and workshops

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

Grading: the six essays will count for 90% of your grade; class participation and conference performance will count for the remaining 10%. 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).

Course Policies: 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. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Conferences and classroom workshops are required. Though I do not have an attendance policy, I will mark down your essay if you do not participate in workshops. Failure to
appear for a scheduled conference with me means an automatic F for the current assignment.

Though essay drafts and completed essays must be produced on a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk, I will collect and read hard copy. (The computer lab is equipped with two laser printers.) Double space and leave a one-inch margin on all sides. Do not use a font larger than 12.

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

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."

Computer Laboratory Policies

The class will meet in the computer lab alternating weeks. All classes marked with * on the schedule below meet in the lab.

Neither food nor drink is allowed in the lab.

You must come to lab meetings with your own floppy disks.

Never save your work to the C: drive; save your work to the folder with your name, which you will make at our first lab meeting in the work folder in the section folder for the course (Sylvia/1091G/work/yourname).

Remember: work saved in the class work folder can be altered by anyone who has access to the lab. Make sure you always save your work to a floppy disk before you leave the lab.

Use laboratory time productively; come to lab meetings prepared to work on your current project.
Tentative Schedule:

*Aug. 22: course introduction

*Aug. 24: lab work; in-class writing


*Sept. 5: #1 draft due; lab workshop

*Sept. 7: #1 due; lab workshop


*Sept. 19: #2 draft due; lab workshop

*Sept. 21: #2 due; lab workshop

Sept. 26: essay assign. #3; conferences -- no classes

Sept. 28: conferences -- no classes

*Oct. 3: #3 draft due; lab workshop

*Oct. 5: #3 due; lab workshop

Oct. 10: essay assign. #4; Theroux, “Being a Man”; Sanders, “Looking at Women”

Oct. 12: Birkerts, “Homo Virtuals”

*Oct. 17: #4 draft due; lab workshop

*Oct. 19: #4 due; lab workshop


Oct. 26: Asimov, “The Eureka Phenomenon”

*Oct. 31: #5 draft due; lab workshop
*Nov. 2: #5 due; lab workshop

Nov. 7: essay assign #6; conferences -- no classes

Nov. 9: conferences -- no classes

*Nov. 14: #6 draft due; lab workshop

*Nov. 16: #6 due

Nov. 21, 23: Thanksgiving break -- no classes

Nov. 28: Wichsler, "Too Many Colleges"

Nov. 30: Zinsser, "College Pressures"

*Dec. 5: further revision work on one of essays #1-6 for EWP

*Dec. 7: further revision work on one of essays #1-6 for EWP