Fall 8-15-1997

ENG 1091-096: Composition and Language, Honors

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Eastern Illinois University

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Course Description:

ENGLISH 1091C is an introduction to writing clear, well-argued critical prose; and an introduction to important works of critical thought in the fields of politics, economics, psychology, science, and philosophy. The aim is to become better writers and thinkers.

http://www.uxl.eiu.edu/~cfgah/

Requirements:

- Course Description
- Required Texts
- Goals
- Heaven and Hell of Composition
- Writing Assignments
- Newsgroup
- Revisions
- Out-of-Class Conferences
- Attendance/Participation
- Honor Code
- Grading
- Students with Disabilities
- Office Hours

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following texts are available at the campus bookstore. Electronic texts can be found for some of our works—still you are required to bring the appropriate "hard" texts to our class meetings.

- *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, William Blake

For Electronic Texts and Resources click here:

GOALS

Through readings, papers, and class participation,
I require the development of the following skills:

1. the ability to convey thoughts and ideas taken from the works read—that is, the improvement of your interpretive capabilities.
2. the ability to recognize and evaluate different methods of communication
3. the ability to identify the inter-play of writers within a larger discourse by understanding some historical context and relevance

finally, the ability to craft coherent and complex thoughts onto paper while adhering to proper grammatical standards.

THE HEAVEN AND HELL OF COMPOSITION

William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*—to be read throughout the semester—will serve as this course's exemplar text. That is, it will be the map that directs our study of composition. "Composition" comes from the Latin *com-* which means "together" and the Latin *poner* which means "to place," "to put down." Put in its broadest terms, English 1001C involves a whole network of etymologies: disposing, imposing, interposing, opposing, proposing and supposing. That is what you will be doing over the course of the semester. Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell* serves as a model for the work of "composition." In his "illuminated" *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, Blake draws together verse, prose, drawings, and color to give body to his vision of political, economic, psychological, scientific, and philosophical truth. The composition of ideas, as Blake well knew, finds its inspiration in forms and figures—as well as in sentences. Your experience in English 100w will explore "composing" in similar terms. In an age of multimedia and the Internet, the future rests in a wide range of "composing" skills—and you will undertake the cultivation of these skills in this class. That is, you will also be composing an "illuminated work." Drawing from essays, illustrated double-sided *readings*, and other materials, you will complete an original "illuminated work" at the end of the semester. This "illuminated work" will serve as your final
course of the semester. *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, then, serves as our starting point and our ending point. You should become familiar with the work immediately. Blake will be our first, and our most sustained, foray into the heaven and hell of "composition."

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

The course requires four essays, two of which must be re-written. Essays one and two must be at least four pages long. Essays three and four must be at least five pages long. You will Re-Write two essays for new grade credit (see Revisions below). Writing assignments are designed to allow you to pull together the diverse readings in a thoughtful and critical way. Subject matter is open. "Instigator Questions" will be provided to suggest possible approaches.

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day indicated in the course schedule and will be reviewed by your peers on occasion.

**NEWSGROUP / Double-Sided Illustrated Readings:**

In addition to the four essays and two rewrites, you are expected to participate in the class DSIR's and later in the semester the class Newsgroup. Newsgroup discussions will help shape and extend classroom discussion. This will also be a forum for students to test their ideas and to seek help for collaborative projects. You will be required to submit a close reading (or brief analysis) for each class meeting when reading is assigned. The close reading will be a critical analysis of some aspect of that day's assignment. The DSIR's will be a one page typed or hand-written summary and critical analysis of that day's reading assignment. Illustrations, mathematical equations, doodles are welcomed. You are encouraged later in the semester to submit these electronically as part of the course Newsgroup. These close readings should cite a passage from the reading, and then analyze and interpret the passage. You should consider these open, free, and informal. This is the place to muse freely. Close readings serve a double purpose. They prepare you for discussion, and they serve as openings to possible essay subjects. A response to a posted close reading "counts" equally with a submission. Consider Newsgroup exchanges an integral part of your
REVISIONS
Simply correcting the grammatical and spelling errors of the original paper does not constitute a rewrite. A proper revision requires a general re-thinking and re-working of the original points and introduces new ones. Editorial comments are perhaps the most valuable and personalized advice on how to improve your writing, and your revisions should take them into account.

OUT-OF-CLASS CONFERENCES
To ensure your progress in the course, you are required to meet with me at least twice during the semester. These conferences appear on the schedule and are mandatory. Additional meetings are optional but strongly suggested.

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION
English 1091C is not a lecture course. Your presence and participation are required. Absences will affect your grade. Four unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one full letter. Six or more unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.

HONOR CODE
See the Student Handbook for information on the school's honor code. See the Harbrace College Handbook and on-line documentation materials for information on proper documentation. Further information about citing electronic and textual sources is available from the Writer's Toolbox page on this web. Plagiarism should not be a problem, but if it is, it is a serious one and can only result in failure.

GRADING
The following percentages show the weight given each paper, your participation, and DSIR's/Newsgroup:

- Papers and Revisions 65%
- Class participation 10%
- Newsgroup/ DSIR / Peer Reviews 10%
- Final "Illuminated Work" 10%

Four essays and the "illuminated work" constitute the bulk of your final grade--a grade which will reflect how successfully you achieve the goals.
listed above. When writing papers, follow the MLA guidelines described in your Harbrace College Handbook. Papers are due at the beginning of class, and any paper handed in after that time will be considered late. Given that the class will operate on a workshop schedule, it is essential that all papers come in as scheduled; late papers without a prearranged extension (given only under dire circumstances) will suffer a grade penalty. Work which fails to reach the stipulated lower limit for number of pages will also be penalized. (The standard for one type-written page is 250 words, and most word processors have word counting functions.) If you do not own a computer contact the Academic Computing at 581-5171 and set up an appointment to tour the facility and review their policies. Keep all returned papers for future reference and bring them when you meet with me during the scheduled conferences. Keep all of your essays together in a folder, and always hand in the previous draft with every new version.

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

OFFICE HOURS
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2:00-4:00 Coleman 314E
(and by appointment)
Another great way to contact me is by e-mail:

gah@eiu.edu
Schedule
(subject to change)

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<th>Aug.</th>
<th>M. 25</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<td>W. 27</td>
<td>Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle</td>
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<td>MacDonald</td>
<td>Gardening &amp; Grammar</td>
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<td>F. 29</td>
<td>&quot;Evaluating ideas: An Introduction to Critical Reading&quot;</td>
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<td>Politics</td>
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<td>Jefferson</td>
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<td>****no class</td>
<td>schedule conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. 10</td>
<td>King</td>
<td>Letter from Birmingham Jail</td>
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<td>F. 12</td>
<td>McPherson</td>
<td>Ivy Day in the Empty Room (Best Essays)</td>
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<td>WORKSHOP WEEK</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
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Psychology

M. 13  Freud  
W. 15  Horney  
F. 17  Fromm  

M. 20  Skinner  
W. 22  Grealy  
F. 24  ***** no class

W. 29  WORKSHOP WEEK

M. 27

Workshop Week

F. 31

Science

M. 03  Bacon  
W. 05  Darwin  
F. 07  Carson  

M. 10  Gould  
W. 12  WORKSHOP WEEK

F. 14

Philosophy

M. 17  Plato  
W. 19  Aristotle  
F. 21  Descartes  

Thanksgiving Break!

Fall HOLIDAYS 24-28

Dec.  M. 01  Shelley  
W. 03  
F. 05

Writing Workshop

MWF. 08-12

WRAP-UP / Presentations of Illuminated Works