

Spring 1-15-2018

# ENG 5011-001: Studies in Composition and Rhetoric

Daiva Markelis  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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## Recommended Citation

Markelis, Daiva, "ENG 5011-001: Studies in Composition and Rhetoric" (2018). *Spring 2018*. 56.  
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**ENGLISH 5011, SPRING 2018**  
**Studies in Composition and Rhetoric:**  
**Thursdays 7:00 - 9:30 PM/Coleman Hall 3159**  
**Dr. Daiva Markelis/581-5614/348-9230/dmmarkelis@eiu.edu**  
**Office: Coleman Hall 3375**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Mondays 11:00 to 12:30**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 2:00**  
**and by appointment**

**Purpose of the Course**

In this course we will examine the history of writing instruction in the United States from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when teaching at the elementary level centered on spelling words, forming simple sentences, and having beautiful handwriting, to the current age of digital composition with its increasing emphasis on multimodal texts. Requirements include several short response papers, an annotated bibliography, leading a class discussion, and a major research project.

**Goals of the Course**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. better understand the impact of cultural, economic, and social environments upon written language use and, particularly, writing instruction
2. have a broader conception of the complicated and ever-changing nature of composition instruction in the United States
3. more fully comprehend the importance of extracurricular literacy—writing and book groups, community newspapers, etc.

**Texts**

*Before Shaughnessy: Basic Writing at Yale and Harvard* by Ritter

*A Guide to Composition Pedagogies* by Tate

*Genre: An Introduction to History, Theory, Research, and Pedagogy* by Bawarshi

*The Evolution of College English* by Miller

*The Origins of Composition Studies in the American College* by Brereton

And selected readings

**Requirements**

1. Read the assigned material by the assigned date and participate in class discussions. Come up with questions about the reading(s) to share with the class.
2. Lead two class discussions on articles.
3. Write a literacy narrative of 4-5 pages based on personal experience.
4. Complete a major research project of approximately 20 pages and present your findings to the class in a 15-minute oral presentation.

**Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. While emergencies do occur, missing more than one class session may seriously jeopardize your final grade.

### **Grade Breakdown**

Participation/Coming to class with questions/comments about the texts	10%
Leading two class discussions:	
One based on chapter from <i>A Guide to Composition Pedagogies/Genre</i>	15%
One based on article of your choice	15%
Literacy narrative	10%
Research essay and oral presentation	50%

### **Literacy Narrative**

This is a personal essay in which you explore your early experiences with spoken and written language and how they have shaped you as a writer. We will talk about this in class.

### **Research Paper**

Historical analyses, theoretical arguments, and empirically-based approaches are all welcome. We will talk more about the different approaches and how they overlap in class.

### **Plagiarism**

Here is the English Department policy 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 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.

**NOTE:** I may make minor changes to this syllabus in order to suit the needs of the class. Changes will always be announced in advance.

### **SCHEDULE**

#1	01/11	Overview of course; introductions
#2	01/18	Read the introduction to <i>The Origins of Composition Studies</i> Read the introduction to <i>The Evolution of College English</i> Read the handouts Come with 3 to 4 questions or comments about each of the above (These must be written down)
#3	01/25	Literacy Narrative due Chapters One and Two in <i>The Evolution of College English</i> Come with 3 to 4 questions/comments on each
#4	02/01	Professor Angela Vietto visit; discussion of writing instruction in colonial US Come with MANY questions to ask Dr. Vietto Also, read Chapter Three in <i>The Evolution of College English</i>
#5	02/08	Chapters Four and Five in <i>The Evolution of College English</i>

- #6      02/15      Chapter Two in *The Origins of Composition Studies*
- #7      02/22      Chapters Three and Four in *The Origins of Composition Studies*
- #8      03/01      Selected chapters from *Genre: An Introduction*  
Selected chapters from *A Guide to Composition Pedagogies*
- #9      03/08      Article presentations

**SPRING BREAK**

- #10     03/22     Read Chapter Five in *The Origins of Composition Studies*
- #11     03/29     Read Chapter Six in *The Origins of Composition Studies*
- #12     04/05     Read all of *Before Shaughnessy* (It's a short read)
- #13     04/12     Article presentations
- #14     04/19     Read the conclusion in *The Origins of Composition Studies*  
Read Conclusion in *The Evolution of College English*
- #15     04/26     Final Research Paper Presentation

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**FINAL PAPERS DUE on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at four PM**