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ENG 1091G-099: Honors Freshman Composition

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Course Description & Policies

ENGLISH 1091G is an introduction to writing clear, well-argued critical prose. Designed for honors students, this course will explore pivotal questions and problems in a variety of academic disciplines. The framework for our discussions and writing projects this semester will be the broad theme of "Constructing Identity"—a theme that we will investigate for its rhetorical, historical, and philosophical complexities.

TEXTS:  
- The Golden Ass. Apuleius.  
- Civilization and Its Discontents. Sigmund Freud.  
- Wuthering Heights. Emily Bronte.  
- Course Packet

REQUIREMENTS: The major writing projects that you will complete this semester vary in length and complexity. (I'll hand out an assignment sheet for each project that details the specifics.) You must complete all major writing projects to pass the course. The requirements (and percentage weights) are listed below.

- Personal Essay 5%  
- Critical Interpretation (2) 10% each  
- Interpreting History 15%  
- Group Project 20%  
- Revision & Online Portfolio 10%  
- Participation 15%  
- Brief Writing Assignments & Presentations 15%

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS: Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due on the date specified in the syllabus. Papers turned in after the due date will be penalized one-third of a grade for each calendar day they are late—unless you have already made arrangements with me prior to the due date. I will not accept work that is more than one week late. Although I encourage you to turn in your work in class, you have until 4:00 p.m. on the due date to hand in your paper (either to me or in my mailbox, 3155 Coleman Hall). In other words, I want you to be in class that day whether or not you have your work fully completed.

Unless otherwise specified by the assignment, you may submit your writing projects to me in hard copy or in an electronic format. See essay guidelines for more information.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You need to be in class all the time. I generally allow up to three absences, whether excused or unexcused. Each absence after that will lower your final grade one full grade (if your calculated final grade is a B, for instance, and you have four absences, you will receive a C for the course). Seven or more absences
will result in a failing grade.

PARTICIPATION: This is not a lecture course. The success of the course depends on your active and continued involvement. Note that a full 15% of your final grade will be determined by how much you contribute. You can guarantee yourself a good participation score by being prepared for class and by asking questions. Since a significant portion of class time will be devoted to commenting on others' writing, your participation score will also be based on your interaction with your peers and your timeliness in responding to their work.

PRESENTATIONS: Throughout the semester, each of you will be asked (probably on more than one occasion) to instigate or lead class discussion. While these presentations are not formal ones, you will need to do some extra preparation—either by doing outside research or developing discussion questions (or both).

TECHNOLOGY: In both academia and the workplace, fluent writing relies heavily on technology. This course will reflect that reality. I will assist you a great deal; however, you must be prepared to devote time to becoming more proficient with various writing software and computer technology. Also, you will be asked to develop an online writing portfolio, which means that most (if not all) of your major writing assignments will be posted on the Web. If you have some reservations or are uncomfortable with this, please discuss this with me and we will work out some arrangement.

PLAGIARISM: Since the university is a place of ideas, discussion, and reflection, it views plagiarism—the taking of others' ideas as one's own—very harshly. The penalty for plagiarizing is swift and severe. You will receive an immediate F for the course and notice will be given to the Office of Judicial Affairs and the Honors Program. If you have any questions about plagiarism—however small—please talk to me before you turn in your work.

ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO: At some point this year, you will need to submit a piece of your writing (from 1091G or 1092G) to your Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). While this will mean a little extra work from you, the task itself is easy to accomplish. If you want to submit an essay from this course, plan on completing this before the Thanksgiving break. I'll discuss this more in class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: 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.