ENG 1091C-098: Composition and Language Honors

Gregg Hecimovich
Eastern Illinois University

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Course Description:

ENGL 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.

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Requirements:

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- Required Texts
- Goals
- Heaven and Hell of Composition
- Writing Assignments
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- Revisions
- Out-of-Class Conferences
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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.

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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 1091C 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 1091C 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, illuminated 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 exam—a synthesis of the essays you write over the 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.

**DSIR's / Double-Sided Illuminated Readings / List-Serv:**

In addition to the four essays and two rewrites, you are expected to participate in the class Double-Sided Illuminated Responses (or DSIR's) and later in the semester the class list-serv. The list-serv. 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 list-serv. 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 another student's close reading "counts" equally with a submission. Consider these exchanges an integral part of your required reading.

### 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...
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each paper, your participation, and DSIR's/List-Serv:

- Papers and Revisions %65
- Class participation %10
- DSIR / List-Serv / 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 Academic Computer Support 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: Tuesday 2:00–4:00*

*Wednesday 9:00–11:00 Coleman 314A*

*(and by appointment)*

*Another great way to contact me is by e-mail:*
English 1091C-98

Professor Gregg A. Hecimovich

TTH 11:00-12:15 – Coleman 340/362

Schedule

(subject to change)

Aug. T. 25 Introduction / Computer Orientation

TH. 27 writing exercise / Gardening & Grammar

Politics

Sep. T. 01 *****no class schedule conferences

TH. 03 "Evaluating ideas: An Introduction to Critical Reading"
Machiavelli Qualities of a Prince

T. 08 Jefferson Declaration of Independence

TH. 10 King Letter from Birmingham Jail

T. 15 WORKSHOP WEEK

TH. 17 Paper #1 Due / Peer Review

Economics

T. 22 Final Draft Paper #1 Due
Marx The Communist Manifesto
TH. 24 Keyes *The End of Lassiez-Faire*

Oct.

T. 29 Reich *Why the Rich are Getting Richer . . .*

TH. 01 Frey *The Last Shot* (Best Essays)

T. 06 WORKSHOP

TH. 08 Paper #2 Due / Peer Review

Psychology

T. 13 Paper #2 Final Draft Due, Freud *Infant Sexuality*

TH. 15 Fromm *Love and its Disintergration . . .*

T. 20 Skinner *What is Man?*

TH. 22 Grealy *Mirrorings* (Best Essays)

T. 27 WORKSHOP

Nov. TH. 29 Paper #3 Due / Peer Review

Science and Philosophy

T. 03 Paper #3 Final Draft Due/ Bacon *The Four Idols*

TH. 05 Darwin *Natural Selection / Revision #1 Due*
T. 10 Plato *The Cave*

TH. 12 Shelley *A Vindication of a Natural Diet* (Handout)

**T. 17 WORKSHOP WEEK**

TH. 19 Illuminated Final Exam Setup

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**Thanksgiving Break!**

**Fall HOLIDAYS 23-27**

Dec. *****no class schedule conferences/ Paper #4 Final Draft Due

TH. 03 T. 01 "Illuminated Workshop"

T. 08 "Illuminated Workshop"

TH. 10 "Illuminated Workshop"

F. 11 TBA Christmas Party

**Final Exam: Presentation of Illuminated Works / Revision #2 Due**