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ENG 1091-099: Composition and Language (Honors)

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English 1091G -- 099: Composition and Language (Honors)
TR 8:00 – 9:15 am; CH 3130/3120
Fall 2006
Professor Richard Sylvia
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Course Description, Design, and Goals: English 1091G is a course in expository writing designed to improve your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. Since this is an Honors section, we will work at an accelerated pace throughout the semester, read longer works, and write more challenging essays than you would in a regular section.

This semester I focus the course on travel and travel related issues and have assigned five essays for you to write based on our reading about travel and on your own travel experiences. Two of the five essays are longer – minimum 1500 words – and will require documented research. For the three others – minimum 750 words – research will be optional. Your grade will be determined on your performance on these writing assignments, which includes participation in class workshops and attendance at conference meetings. See Grading below.

The goal throughout the semester is for you to produce writing that develops purposefully and economically. This is not an easy task for anyone. Consistent effort in revision – and in helping members of your work group to revise – is the best guarantee of success.

In the computer classroom (CH 3120), where we will meet every other week, you will spend your time composing, revising your essays, or helping classmates in your work group to revise their essays. When we are in the regular classroom (CH 3130), we will discuss assigned readings, the current writing assignment, and issues of writing competency.

Texts: Bryson, Bill. The Lost Continent
Craig, Patricia. Oxford Book of Travel Stories
Morris, Mary. Nothing to Declare: Memoirs of a Woman Traveling Alone
Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath

Requirements:
1) completion of five essay assignments, at least two of which will require use of secondary printed and internet sources
2) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings
3) participation in your work group on a regular basis
4) attendance at all scheduled conferences

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

**Grading:** The five required essays will count for 90% of your grade; class participation will count for the remaining 10%. The two longer papers will count for 30% each and the three shorter papers for 10% each. 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). Final grades below 70 are officially recorded as NC (no credit). I mark down finished essays one full grade for every workshop and conference you miss without a valid excuse.

**Course Policies:** Try to meet deadlines. Generally, 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. I am not inflexible. 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, and you obviously cannot earn the 10% for class participation without attending class regularly.

Though I may read essay drafts on the computer, completed essays ready for grading must be submitted in hard copy. (The computer classroom is equipped with two laser printers.)

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.

This is a writing-centered course. You may submit an essay completed for this class to your Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP). Visit the assessment website: http://www.eiu.edu/~assess for details.

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.

I enforce the 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."
Tentative Schedule:

Aug. 22: course introduction


*Aug. 29: Bryson, 105-203; essay #1 assigned

*Aug. 31: workshop essay #1

Sept. 5: Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*; essay #1 due

Sept. 7: *Grapes*; essay #2 assigned

*Sept. 12: workshop essay #2

*Sept. 14: workshop essay #2

Sept. 19: *Grapes*; essay #2 due

Sept. 21: *Grapes*; essay #3 assigned

*Sept. 26, 28: scheduled conferences – no class meeting

Oct. 3: Morris, *Nothing to Declare*, 1-3

Oct. 5: *Nothing to Declare*, 4-7

*Oct. 10: workshop essay #3

*Oct. 12: workshop essay #3

Oct. 17: Adams, “Greyhound People”; essay #3 due

Oct. 19: Gardan, “Chinese Funeral”; essay #4 assigned

*Oct. 24: workshop essay #4

*Oct. 26: workshop essay #4

Oct. 31: Carver, “The Compartment”

Nov. 2: Ingalls, “Somewhere Else”

*Nov. 7, 9: scheduled conferences – no class meeting; essay #4 due

Nov. 14: Bowen, “Human Habitation”; essay #5 assigned
Nov. 16: Plomer, “Local Color”

Nov. 21, 23: Thanksgiving Break

*Nov. 28: workshop essay #5

*Nov. 30: workshop essay #5

Dec. 5, 7: scheduled conferences – no class meeting; essay #5 due