ENG 3001-007: Advanced composition

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English 3001  Advanced Composition  Spring 2005

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Course Agenda

This advanced writing class is geared to help you build confidence in your writing, both in terms of practical skills and public presentation. During the term, each person in the class will write seven or so short papers, typically personal narratives, along with a quasi-research paper, and read them out loud to the group. Following the reading of each set of papers, we will discuss the papers in various ways. Daunting though this may sound, this is not a slash and burn sort of experience, and lots of people have found it to be an interesting, stimulating, and enjoyable way to develop their writing skills, learn to respond to other people’s efforts, and find for themselves their own writing voice.

Course Expectations

1. Come to class. Regular, consistent, punctual attendance in this course is as close to mandatory as it can get. Missing a class or two is not the end of the world, but because of the workshop nature of the course, the regular passing out of papers and such, and other business matters, you have to be there virtually all the time. I cannot stress this more, while recognizing that various things may come up for each of you during the semester, these we can work with, but from the outset if you want to be in this class, then you have to come to class, most of all on days when papers are being presented.

2. Keep up with the deadlines. Your work needs to be ready on time, copies made for the class, and ready to pass out at the beginning of class on the day it’s due. This is especially true for the first few papers.

3. This is as much a class in responding to other people’s work as it is writing your own, and I expect people to be ready to have something to say about papers besides their own. Active, engaged students talk.

4. The final grade will reflect the degree to which you live up to these expectations, along with the quality and development of the papers you write. If you want an A, act like an A student.

You write the best you can, and you take your chances.

Raymond Carver