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ENG 1001C-021-062-069: Composition and Language

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English 1001C: Composition and Language
Fall 1997

Instructor: Tris Ryan
Office: 329 Coleman Hall
Phone: #6319
Office hours: T 3-3:30, TR 5-6 and by appointment.

Texts: Axelrod & Cooper, The St. Martin's Guide to Writing, 4th ed.
Hirschberg, One World, Many Cultures, 2nd ed.
Hodges, et al. Harbrace College Handbook, 12th ed.
A standard college-level dictionary.

You will also need to bring plenty of college-ruled paper and pens (not pencils) to class everyday. Please also purchase a folder in which to keep your drafts.

Course description: English 1001C is a course in the reading and writing of expressive, expository, and persuasive essays. Emphasis is on effective expression, clear structure, adequate development, and documentation of source.

This course will essentially serve as a basis for most, if not all, of your academic writing. What you learn in this class you will find immediately applicable to your other college courses, and many of you will use the skills acquired in this class throughout your future careers.

Clearly, this course is important. It is so important that college policy states that **you must receive a C or better for the course; any course grade lower than a C will be counted as an "NC" (no credit), and must be re-taken.** (Students can receive a D or even an F on individual assignments, however.)

Furthermore, to derive the maximum benefit from this course, it is essential that you attend class. You simply will not know how to do the assignments otherwise. With this in mind, my absence policy is as follows: **more than four unexcused absences will result in grade deduction. For every unexcused absence beyond the four absences you are allowed, your course grade will drop a full letter grade. Seven or more unexcused absences will inevitably mean a course grade of NC. If you leave before the end of class without prior permission, it will be counted as an absence.**

Lateness is another concern. If you are late you will disrupt the class, so please do all you can to arrive on time. **Continually tardy people will receive a formal warning, after which the policy is as follows: two latenesses equal one unexcused absence. Thus, chronic tardiness can lead to grade deduction.**

However, legitimate problems do arise. These are valid excused absences and latenesses. Call me as soon as you can (hopefully prior to class) if you feel you have a good reason to be absent or late, such as an illness or an emergency. Naturally, such a policy can be abused, so you are only allowed two or three valid excused absences and latenesses. Catching a ride going home for the weekend and oversleeping **cannot** be counted in this category.

Course objectives:

The Composition Committee has outlined the following objectives to be pursued in English 1001C:

To write expository and persuasive papers in which paragraphs and words develop a central idea. These papers should involve prewriting strategies for formulating a thesis, methods for planning and drafting a paper, strategies for revision, and a way to edit. These papers should have a beginning, middle and an end. At least one paper should require the use of source materials and reflect principles of documentation.

To write well-developed paragraphs and sentences that are clear, direct, and economical.

To write standard written English that demonstrate principles of preciseness and of suitability to the paper.

Finally, students should develop the skills necessary to become better readers and evaluators, both of their own writing and of source material.

Guidelines for enrollment: Students who have ACT scores of 14 or below, or who have no test scores on file with the university, must pass English 1000 before enrolling in English 1001C.

Grades: This class requires you to write four essays (one written in class) and one research paper. In addition, there will be other in-class writing, but it will not be counted towards your final grade.

Grades will be computed as follows:

- first essay (3-4 page expressive)-100 pts.
- second essay (4-5 page comparison/contrast)-100 pts.
- third essay (4-5 page persuasive and collaborative)-100 pts.; see below
- fourth essay (3-5 page persuasive, in-class)-100 pts.
- fifth essay (10 page research)-100 pts.
- participation-100 pts.

A= 90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= 59% or below

The third essay is collaborative, meaning you will complete the assignment with two or three others. The final grade for the paper will be the grade given to all participants in this project, unless your lack of participation in this project necessitates an adjustment, which will be determined by the instructor.

You must complete ALL five essays, including audience analysis pages, rough drafts and planning notes, and hand them in, or you will receive an NC for the course.

Basically, essays will be graded in five categories, as follows: audience, audience analysis page, organization, focus and development, and grammar and mechanics (including awkward phraseology). Some papers may include other categories. How your grade will be determined for each paper will be detailed on the assignment sheet for that paper.

The participation grade will include participation in class discussions, as well as other considerations. You may be asked to leave class and marked as absent if you engage in activities that clearly and openly communicate disinterest.

Good news--no midterm or final in this class!

Late work: **I accept late papers only if they are handed in before the end of the class period after the due date. No grade deduction will occur if a paper is handed in before the end of class on the due date. At the end of class on the due date, any papers not received by me will be reduced by one letter grade. This letter-grade deduction will remain consistent until the end of the next class period. Any papers not handed in by this time will receive a "0."** Any late research papers will receive a "0." The in-class essay must be written on the assigned day unless prior arrangements have been made. Slide a late paper underneath my office door after it has been signed and dated by the secretary. **DO NOT** put late papers in my mailbox.

Writing Center: You have many resources available to you on this campus. One of the best is the Writing Center in room 301 in Coleman Hall. If you need help at any stage of the writing process, take advantage of it. The Writing Center is staffed by graduate students in English, and they can help you with anything from exploring your topic thoroughly to how to correctly use a semi-colon. Appointments can be made, or you can just "walk in." Do not wait until the last minute to go to the Writing Center about a particular paper; that is unfair to the staff members, as they may see many aspects of your paper that need to be improved but will only be able to handle one or two things in that session. As the saying goes, "Prior planning prevents poor performance."

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Plagiarism: Eastern Illinois University and the English department take plagiarism (the use of the words or ideas of another without acknowledging that these words or ideas were in fact someone else's) very seriously. Here is the Department's statement:

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 immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assignment and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Avoid plagiarism at all costs. See me if you are having any trouble or doubts about what plagiarism is, or if you need help correctly incorporating source materials into your paper.

English 1001C: Composition and Language
Course Syllabus
(This syllabus can be changed if necessary.)

- T, 08/26 Introduction to course; syllabus review
R, 08/28 Introduction to writing process; diagnostic essay

The Expressive Essay

- T, 09/02 “On Being a Real Westerner” (St. Martin’s 27-30)
“Calling Home” (St. Martin’s 36-40)
Expressive essay introduction; discuss audience
R, 09/04 Discuss paper #1 and proper dialogue form
T, 09/09 “Narrating” (St. Martin’s 482-91)
“Describing” (St. Martin’s 494-505)
Discuss tense consistency and writing groups
R, 09/11 Expressive essay rough draft due for writing groups
T, 09/16 Discuss invention and effective titles for expressive essays

The Expository Essay

- R, 09/18 Continue discussion of invention
Introduction to expository essay, organization and development
Discuss comma splices
Expressive essay final draft due, including all notes and previous drafts
T, 09/23 Harbrace 362-71 (thesis and organization)
Discuss comparison/contrast and writing a good thesis
R, 09/25 Bowman’s “Guns and Cameras” handout
Discuss introductions, conclusions and format of conferences
T, 09/30 Harbrace 201-6 (slang, contractions and cliches)
Discuss paper #2 and effective titles for expository essays
R, 10/02 Continue paper #2 discussion
In-class essay
T, 10/07 and R, 10/09 Conferences

The Persuasive Essay

- T, 10/14 “Arguing” (St. Martin’s 534-51)
Harbrace 264-9 (clear pronoun usage)
Persuasive essay introduction
Comp/contrast final draft due, including all notes and previous drafts
R, 10/16 “Taking a Position” (St. Martin’s 226-42)
T, 10/21 Discuss paper #3
R, 10/23 Harbrace 378-90 (revision)
Continue paper #3 discussion

- T, 10/28 “Irish Republic” and “Henry V” handouts
Harbrace 71-4 (pronoun and antecedent agreement)
 Discuss the use of logic and emotion in persuasion
- R, 10/30 Harbrace 321-7 (transitions)
 Class time to work on paper #3

The Research Paper

- T, 11/04 “Library Research” (St. Martin’s 570-92) (skim)
 “Using and Acknowledging Sources” (St. Martin’s 594-602)
Persuasive essay final draft due, including all notes and previous drafts
- R, 11/06 Continue “Using and Acknowledging Sources” discussion
 In-class work on quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing
- T, 11/11 Discuss research paper (paper #5)
- R, 11/13 Continue research paper discussion; discuss plagiarism
- T, 11/18 Harbrace 419-41 (MLA style)
 In-class work on documentation
- R, 11/20 Harbrace 441-63 (sample research paper)
 Discuss Internet documentation

No class T, 11/25 and R, 11/27--Thanksgiving Break

- T, 12/02 Work on research papers in class
- R, 12/04 Discuss paper #4 (in-class persuasive essay)
- T, 12/09 Write paper #4 (persuasive essay)
- R, 12/11 **Research paper due by 4:30 with notes and drafts**