

Fall 8-15-1997

## ENG 3001-008: Advanced Composition

Peggy Brayfield  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_fall1997](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall1997)



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Brayfield, Peggy, "ENG 3001-008: Advanced Composition" (1997). *Fall 1997*. 87.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_fall1997/87](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall1997/87)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 1997 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 1997 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).

3001-8

English 3001 - Advanced Composition  
Fall 1997- Dr. Peggy Brayfield  
Writing From Personal Experience

Required Course Work and Grading System

I. Writing assignments (55% of term grade).

Students will take a series of six writing assignments (essays organized as narration, description, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, definition, and persuasion/argument) through the "workshop" stages of discovery/creating exercises, rough draft, peer response, instructor response, and revision. All students are expected to complete all six assignments, including the stages outlined above.

None of the assignments will be accepted without the rough draft. The creating exercises and the peer and instructor responses are also part of the assignment; if any of them are missing, the grade on the finished project will be lowered at the teacher's discretion, proportionate to the amount and importance of the missing parts.

Students are expected to attend and participate in all workshop sessions (discovery, peer response, instructor response) unless ill or otherwise excused by the instructor. Roll will be taken every day as a record of participation. It is the responsibility of each student to be sure their presence is marked on a given day, in the event they arrive after roll is called; attendance records are not open to dispute at a later date.

Students are also expected to make significant revisions in their rough drafts after the response sessions. Mere proof-reading corrections are not considered to be significant revision.

Each of the six assignments will be evaluated as a process; the rough drafts will be turned in with the revised drafts, in order that the instructor may see what changes were made. The grade on each assignment will be based partly on how well the finished draft exhibits the qualities of the kind of writing practiced in that assignment (e.g. description, narration, comparison/contrast etc.), and partly on evidence that the writer took the process seriously in developing and revising the draft essay.

The finished essay will also be evaluated for its effective use of such elements of good writing as organization, development, paragraphing, sentence structure, word choice, fresh original details, style, and awareness of what is appropriate to its reading audience/purpose. Improvement of the revised draft over the earlier versions will also be taken into account.

Each of the six assignments will receive a letter grade. The instructor will also suggest ways the graded essay could be improved by further revision. Students may do such further revisions on any of the six essays after they have been graded the first time. This newly revised version may be included in the end-of-term portfolio as evidence of further work and progress if the student chooses.

## English 3001 - Required Course Work, Grading System cont.

If an assignment is not done (with its required parts), that assignment will receive a grade of zero (F).

The average of the grades on the six assignments and the two tests will count as 55% of the semester grade, except that, for each of the six assignments a student has not done, his/her term grade will be lowered by  $\frac{1}{2}$  letter grade.

### II. Tests

There will be two, or perhaps three tests requiring students to demonstrate their mastery of some or all of the six types of writing taught in the six projects (narration, description, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, definition, argument/persuasion). These will be given prior to the final exam period; there is no final exam per se.

Students may prepare for these tests primarily by studying the material in Bender and by applying it in the analysis of the required course readings in Bender and in Sommers & McQuade. The tests will require the writing of extemporaneous paragraphs demonstrating the specified types of writing and/or the identification of specified types of writing in prose distributed for the test. Any other matters the instructor deems pertinent might also be included on a test.

### III. Portfolio (45% of term grade)

The remaining 45% of the semester grade will be assigned to the portfolio which will be turned in on the last class period prior to finals.

For the portfolio, students will select, from the work done for this class, examples of what they consider their best. Each student's portfolio should include

- At least two examples of their best discovery/creating exercises done at some point in the process of developing the essays
- The three finished essays of theirs that they consider to be the best of their work previously accepted and graded during the course. Along with this should be the first draft and any subsequent drafts they wrote as they revised and polished these three essays. If desired, any of these three might be versions further revised after the instructor first graded them.
- A cover essay of about 750 - 1000 words presenting a rationale for the inclusion of the above material, a discussion of the process by which the writer worked through the problems and revisions to finish the essays, and explanation of how other course materials and activities, such as the readings assigned, the work or comments of classmates, etc., contributed to the development of the chosen best work.

English 3001 - Required Course Work, Grading System cont.

The portfolio will receive a letter grade, which will not necessarily be the average of the grades previously assigned to the essays included. In evaluating the portfolio, the instructor will consider, in addition to the quality of the finished work included, such matters as:

- the quality of the selections included;
- evidence that the student used the workshop process to improve his/her work;
- evidence of having studied and benefited from the model essays assigned, and from peer and instructor responses;
- new revisions, if any;
- quality of the rationale and other commentary in the cover letter.

Attendance, reading, and class participation are a factor in the grade insofar as they are included in the activities outlined above. Further, in the event that any student's grade, figured according to the 55%/45% formula given above, falls between two letter grades, attendance and class participation will be determining factors in the final decision.

Note on Modifications of Course Syllabus

In the event the instructor deems it necessary to make adjustments in the schedule of assignments or other aspects of the course work, these will be announced in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of each student to keep informed of all such adjustments. Ignorance of announced assignments will not be considered an excuse for not being prepared.

Unannounced quizzes over assigned reading may be given to determine how well assignments have been prepared.