

Spring 1-15-2008

ENG 1001G-010: Composition and language

Mario Podeschi
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2008



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

Recommended Citation

Podeschi, Mario, "ENG 1001G-010: Composition and language" (2008). *Spring 2008*. 12.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2008/12

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2008 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2008 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

SYLLABUS

Eng 1001G-010, Spring 2008

Freshman Composition

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in Coleman 3290

Instructor: Mario Podeschi

Office: Coleman Hall 3110

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment

Phone Number: (217) 823-3713

Email Address: mrpodeschi@eiu.edu

Course Description: This course's main objective is to prepare you for college- and professional-level writing. As such writing takes place in a wide variety of classes and situations, we will be taking a *genre*-based approach, where you will study how writing in different situations effects the expectations of your readers. Along the way, we will touch upon several topics upon which to base our discussion, ranging from this year's political race to our favorite music.

Revision Policy: This course strives to make you better writers, and better writing only comes through practice. To encourage this, I will include a revision date on every paper I return to you. If you give your paper back to me any time before this date, I will award you the better of the two grades.

Late Paper Policy: Papers will be penalized one letter grade per class day they are late.

Attendance: This is college—don't miss class. Though I will not mark your letter grade down directly for absences, we will be doing something in class every day, and I will not allow make-up grades for in-class writings, quizzes, presentations, and so on. Also, I will be providing information on a daily basis that will assist you in your essays and the final exam. Also, if you do not attend class, do not expect any flexibility or sympathy on my part regarding your grade.

I can be extraordinarily flexible with assignments and missed class if you're in a genuine bind. My only requirement is that you show me some proof of what's going on—a receipt from your broken car, a prescription from your doctor, or a keepsake from the marriage or funeral. I already know how awkward it is to demand evidence for a death in the family, but this is the only solution I have found for the numerous grandparents who die every year during homecoming.

Grading: Your grade breaks down as follows:

Essay 1: 20%

Essay 2: 20%

Essay 3: 20%

In-Class Assignments: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Conferences: I will hold conferences in my office regarding each of your essays. Your conferences directly affect your paper grade. Skipping a conference will lower your paper by a letter grade. On the other hand, classes during conference weeks are cancelled, meaning more sleep for all of us.

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 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 the grade of F for the course, as well as to report the incident to the university’s Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.*

Daily Schedule: These dates and events are subject to change, and most days will include discussions, spot-check grammar lessons, videos, in-class writings, and similar extra material. The second half of the syllabus will be based on our classroom needs and current events, and it will be distributed the first day after Spring Break.

Week 1

Tuesday, January 8th: Introduction to course, distribution of syllabus, discussion of high school writing, and leaving early.

Thursday, January 10th: Group discussion of high school culture and writing.

Week 2

Tuesday, January 15th: Introduction to key terms: *genre*, *audience*, and *conventions*.

Thursday, January 17th: Application of key terms to our culture.

Week 3

Tuesday, January 22nd: Introduction to essay #1. Politics and rhetoric.

Thursday, January 24th: Schedule conferences for next week. Discussion of plagiarism and of the writing process.

Week 4

Tuesday, January 29th: NO CLASS: Conferences.

Thursday, January 31st: NO CLASS: Conferences.

Week 5

Tuesday, February 5th: “Effective Email Communication.” A lecture by Daiva Markelis in the Effingham Room at 10 a.m. (we will walk there from class). +5% extra credit if you come with me to vote in the primaries after class.

Thursday, February 7th: ESSAY #1 DUE.

Week 6

Tuesday, February 12th: The English renegade’s guide to grammar.

Thursday, February 14th: Analysis of Valentine’s Day.

Week 7

Tuesday, February 19th: Documentation and citing sources.
Thursday, February 21st: Field trip to the Booth Library.

Week 8

Tuesday, February 26th: Introduction to essay #2. Schedule conferences.
Thursday, February 28th: NO CLASS: Conferences. Deadline to withdraw from class with no grade.

Week 9

Tuesday, March 4th: NO CLASS: Conferences.
Thursday, March 6th: Essay #2 due.

Week 10

Tuesday, March 11th: NO CLASS: Spring Break.
Thursday, March 13th: NO CLASS: Spring Break.

Week 11-16

Tuesday, March 18th: Second half of syllabus distributed.
...

Week 17

Tuesday, April 29th: Final Examination from 9 to 10 a.m.

SYLLABUS (last half of semester)

Eng 1001G-010, Spring 2008

Freshman Composition

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in Coleman 3290

Instructor: Mario Podeschi

Office: Coleman Hall 3110

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment

Phone Number: (217) 823-3713

Email Address: mrpodeschi@eiu.edu

Week 12

Tuesday, March 25th: Distribution of new syllabus. Introduction to Final Essay. Discussion of the research paper genre, cultural studies, and topic selection. Evaluation of the Corey Robinson Project.

Thursday, March 27th: Discussion of organizing ideas, topic proposals, and abstracts. Abstract-writing assignment distributed.

Week 13

Tuesday, April 1st: Library Day (meet in Booth Library clock tower entrance). Abstracts and 30-32 page research final draft due.

Thursday, April 3rd: Library Day (meet in Booth Library clock tower entrance). Schedule conferences.

Week 14

Tuesday, April 8th: NO CLASS: Conferences.

Thursday, April 10th: NO CLASS: Conferences.

Week 15

Tuesday, April 15th: Final paper due.

Thursday, April 17th: Discuss writing across the disciplines.

Week 16

Tuesday, April 22nd: Examples of college writing. Discuss cultural movements in writing and scholarship.

Thursday, April 24th: Discussion of Final Exam. Conclude discussions. Last day to accept revisions of final paper.

Week 17—Final Exam

Monday, 8:00 a.m to 10:00 a.m.

Eng 1001-010
Mr. Mario Podeschi
March 25, 2008
DUE: Tuesday, April 15th

Final Essay: Research

Your first essay emphasized the importance of audience and a balanced argument. Your second essay emphasized the need to compare different types of information to reach a conclusion more substantial than “X and Y have many differences, yet many similarities.” Your final essay will represent your best attempt at combining these elements of essay writing with careful research and citations.

Keeping with the theme of the class, we will be looking at the cultural world around us to find our topics. This can be a continuation of previous assignments, of class discussions, or a completely new idea. Some sample questions include:

- *Are modern zombie movies making the same cultural commentary as earlier ones, or have their messages changed?*
- *Are newspaper comics an American thing?*
- *How have alcohol advertisements in magazines changed since the 1920s?*
- *What's up with these violent, drug-crazed European films like *Trainspotting* and *Snatch*?*
- *How effective are these new, politically-oriented cartoons like *South Park*, *Family Guy*, *American Dad*, or even *Lil' Bush* at addressing an important issue?*
- *Who is saying what about gay marriage?*
- *What does 9/11 mean to an 18-19 year-old college student?*

Grade Breakdown

Thesis Statement (10%): A 10-9, B 8-7, C 6-5, D 4-3, F 2-1. Remember, an A thesis says both *what* you're talking about and *how* you intend to discuss it.

Paragraphing (15%): Is each paragraph a group of related sentences? Are they held together by a *topic sentence*?

Focus (15%): Does the paper argue the same thing from start to finish? Is there meaningless research that just fills space?

Argument (25%): Is the argument convincing? Does it have good *ethos*, responding to what its critics might say? Can I see how each paragraph is related to the thesis statement? And most of all, is this an interesting idea?

Research (25%): Are the sources *reliable*? Are the citations formatted well? Did your sources provide meaningful information, or were they just there because you needed a source?

Conferences (10%): Conferences must be attended with a complete rough draft.

Other Criteria: All assignments must be 4-6 pages in length, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and double-spaced. The final draft is due Tuesday, April 15th.