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Fall 2008

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# ENG 1001G-025: Composition and Language

Weihsin Gui  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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**English 1001G Section 025**  
**“Composition and Language”**  
**12:00 – 12:50 PM MWF, in Coleman Hall Room 3290**  
**Instructor: Assistant Professor Weihsin Gui**

**Instructor’s contact information:**

Office: English Department, Coleman Hall, Room 3821

Office Hours: MWF 3:00 – 4:00 PM and by appointment

E-mail address: [wgui@eiu.edu](mailto:wgui@eiu.edu)

**Work submission e-mail address: [weihsingui@ymail.com](mailto:weihsingui@ymail.com)**

**Course description:** This course is an introduction college-level writing. We will start with short writing assignments and move towards slightly longer papers at the end of the semester. Topics covered include grammar and common writing errors, generalizations and examples, comparison and contrast, division and analysis, and persuasion and argument. Our emphasis will be on developing critical reading, thinking, and writing skills that you can use in other courses in future.

**Course objectives:** By the end of this course, you should be able

- 1) To write expository and persuasive papers in which paragraphs, sentences, and words develop a central idea.
- 2) To write focused, adequately developed paragraphs and sentences in standard written English that are free of ambiguity and structurally appropriate for the ideas expressed.
- 3) To develop the ability to evaluate and criticize your own and your peers’ writing.
- 4) To develop the ability to understand and evaluate culturally diverse course materials reflecting historically, socially, and culturally relevant issues.

**Course policies:**

\* **Attendance** in class is required. If you are absent for more than 4 class meetings your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Exceptions will only be made in the event of religious events, participation in University activities, serious illness, or other emergencies. A letter or medical certificate will be required for you to be excused.

\* **Writing Groups:** You will be assigned to a writing group of 4-5 students. For each writing assignment, you will be expected to circulate copies of your draft for your peers to read and comment upon. You will also be expected to offer constructive feedback on your peers’ drafts.

\* **Writing assignments:** **You must complete all written assignments to pass this course.**

\* **Grading breakdown:**

- \*20% Participation and Writing Groups
- \*50% Essay assignments
- \*30% Quizzes

**Important note about in-class quizzes: If you are absent or late for class on a day when there is a quiz, your grade for that quiz will be ZERO. You will only be allowed to take the quiz if you present a legitimate reason for your absence.**

\* **Revising essays:** I have assigned 2 weeks for paper revision and individual conferences, one in the middle and another at the end of the semester. You may revise and resubmit any essay from the first half of the course during the first revision week, and any essay from the second half for the second revision week. You should schedule an appointment with me if you are unsure about how to revise your work. Also, staff at **The Writing Center** can help you. They are located in **Coleman Hall, Room 3110**, tel. **581-5929**.

\* **Students with disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583).

\* **Academic Honesty:** All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Do not resort to prefabricated papers and research materials found on the Internet. Make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department:

*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.*

\* **E-mail submission and "Track Changes."** For this course, you will submit almost all written assignments electronically to me using e-mail. Use this e-mail address for work submission: **weihsingui@ymail.com**.

- If you are using Microsoft Office 2007, you must save your documents as a Microsoft Word 97/2000/2003 document (\*.doc). I will be using the "Track Changes" feature to comment on your papers, so you should learn how to use it (try looking it up in MS Office Help).

- When you send me your assignment, the subject/title line of your e-mail should follow this format:

**1001.25 [assignment number] [your name]**

So if your name is Clive Owen and you are e-mailing me the third assignment, the subject line should read:

**1001.25 #3A Clive Owen**

- **It is your responsibility to make sure that your work gets to me punctually.** Use a reliable e-mail client or server, and have a backup in case the first one is temporarily offline. I will not remind you that your work is overdue. **Late work will be lowered by 1 letter grade for every day past the due date.**

**Electronic Writing Portfolio:** EIU requires all students to submit a document from 1001G OR 1002G to their Electronic Writing Portfolio. If you plan to submit a paper written in this class, you must schedule an appointment with me to review the text and to complete submission procedures. Schedule the appointment To ensure that your paper is cleared for the Portfolio, this appointment must be scheduled by November 4 and take place before the last day of classes. Students who plan to submit a paper from this class to their Portfolio will find submission forms and other information about the EWP at <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>.

**Texts for this course:**

- \* *The World is a Text* by Jonathan Silverman and Dean Rader (WT)
- \* *Writing Analytically* by David Rosenwasser and Jill Stephen (WA)
- \* *Easy Writer* by Andrea Lunsford (EW)
- \* **Course packet** available from **Copy-X** on Lincoln Avenue (near Morton Park) (CP)

## SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

### **PART 1: WHAT DOES WRITING AND “COLLEGE WRITING” MEAN TO YOU?**

#### **WEEK 1 8/25-8/29**

- 1) Course introduction; “How Do I Write a Text For College?” from *The World is a Text* (handouts)
- 2) Selections by writers about writing: Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Ellison, Joan Didion (handouts)
- 3) **Quiz #1 on Course Syllabus**

**ASSIGNMENT #1A: Reflections on Writing/College Writing (1 pp.) DUE 5 PM FRI 8/29**

### **PART 2: GRAMMAR AND COMMON WRITING ERRORS**

#### **WEEK 2 9/3 & 9/5 (9/1 Labor Day)**

- 1) Parts of speech, grammar points, common errors (handouts)
- 2) **Quiz #2 on grammar + this part’s readings**

### **PART 3: THE “WRITE” OCCASION**

#### **WEEK 3 9/8-9/12**

- 1) Personal writing: Kelly McCarthy, “Too Pumped” (CP)
- 2) Professional writing: Mary Duenwald, “One Size Definitely Does Not Fit All” (CP)
- 3) Academic Writing: Brad Lemley, “Isn’t She Beautiful” (CP)

**ASSIGNMENT #1B: Reflections on Writing/College Writing DUE 5 PM FRI 9/12**

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### **PART 4: GENERALIZATIONS AND EXAMPLES**

**ASSIGNMENT #2A: Generalization and Example essay: “Public and Private Spaces” (2pp.)**

#### **WEEK 4 9/15-9/19**

##### **Week 1:**

- 1) Introduction; in-class brainstorming and pre-writing
- 2) 1st reading Kenneth Meeks, “Shopping In a Mall While Black: A Coach’s Story” (WT)
- 3) 2nd reading William L. Hamilton, “How Suburban Design is Failing Teenagers” (WT)

#### **WEEK 5 9/22-9/26**

##### **Week 2:**

- 1) 3rd reading Matthew King, “Reading the Nautical Star” (WT)
- 2) Writing Groups to discuss #2A
- 3) **Quiz #3 on grammar + this part’s readings**

**#2A DUE 5 PM FRI 9/26**

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### **PART 5: COMPARISON AND CONTRAST**

**ASSIGNMENT #3A: Comparison and Contrast essay (2pp.)**

#### **WEEK 6 9/29-10/3**

##### **Week 1**

- 1) Introduction; in-class brainstorming and pre-writing
- 2) 1st reading Catton, “Grant and Lee” (CP)
- 3) 2nd reading Greenfield, “Black and White Truth about Basketball” (CP)

#### **WEEK 7 10/6 & 10/8 (10/10 Fall Break)**

##### **Week 2**

- 1) Writing groups to discuss #3A
- 2) **Quiz #4 on grammar + this part’s readings**

**#3A DUE BY 5 PM THU 10/9**

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**WEEK 8      10/13-10/17 (Midterm)**  
**\* REVISION WEEK + INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**

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**PART 6: DIVISION AND ANALYSIS**  
**ASSIGNMENT #4A: Division and Analysis essay (2.5-3 pp.)**

**WEEK 9      10/20-10/24**  
Week 1

- 1) Introduction; in-class brainstorming and pre-writing
- 2) 1st reading Alice Rutkowski, "Why Chicks Dig Vampires: Sex, Blood, and Buffy" (WT)
- 3) 2nd reading Paul Theroux, "Being a Man" (WT)

**WEEK 10     10/27-10/31**  
Week 2

- 1) 3rd reading Whitney Black, "Star Wars and America" (WT)
  - 2) Writing Groups to discuss #4A
  - 3) **Quiz #5 on grammar + this part's readings;**  
**#4A DUE 5 PM FRI 10/31**
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**PART 7: PERSUASION AND ARGUMENT**  
**ASSIGNMENT #5A: Persuasion and Argument essay (2.5-3pp.)**

**WEEK 11     11/3-11/7**  
Week 1

- 1) Introduction; in-class brainstorming and pre-writing
- 2) 1st reading John Leo, "Kill-for-Kicks Video Games Desensitizing Our Children" (WT)
- 3) 2nd reading Dan Walsh, "Hungry for a Scapegoat: A Rebuttal to John Leo's 'Kill-for-Kicks Video Games Desensitizing Our Children'" (WT)

**WEEK 12     11/10 & 11/12 (No class 11/14. Instructor away for conference)**  
Week 2

- 1) 3rd reading Donald A. Norman, "Infuriating by Design" (WT)
- 2) 4th reading Holly Devor, "Gender Role Behaviors and Attitudes" (WT)

**WEEK 13     11/17-11/21**

- 1) No class meetings: personal research and source evaluation
  - 2) Writing Groups to discuss #5A
- #5A DUE 5 PM THU 11/20**
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**WEEK 14 THANKSGIVING BREAK -- NO CLASS MEETINGS**

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**PART 8: WRITING ABOUT ADVERTISING AND IMAGES**  
**ASSIGNMENT #6A: Advertisement/Image Analysis Essay (1.5-2 pp.)**

**WEEK 15      12/1-12/5**

- 1) Introduction; William Lutz, "Weasel Words" (WT); Breakout groups to discuss advertisements
  - 2) BMW short films: "The Hire"
  - 3) Writing groups to discuss #6A
- #6A DUE 5 PM FRI 12/5**

**WEEK 16      12/8-12/12**

**\* REVISION WEEK + INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES**

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**\* FINALS WEEK: DEC 15-19**

**\*\*\*Final Portfolio with #1C REFLECTIVE ESSAY in front due 12/15 MON by 4 PM.**