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ENG 1091-095: Language and Composition (Honors)

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English 1091G Section 095
Language and Composition (Honors)
Fall 2006

2:00-3:15p.m. T,Th in Coleman Hall Room 3160

Instructor: Professor Carol Stevens

Office: 3861 Coleman Hall

Office Hours: T,Th 9:00-9:50, 10:00-10:50, and 3:30-4:00.; W 9:00-11:00 and by appointment

Telephone and voicemail: 581-6970

E-mail: cdstevens@eiu.edu

Textbooks:

Fulweiler and Hayakawa, *The Blair Handbook*, 4th edition

Petersen and Brereton, *The Norton Reader*, 11th edition

A good college-level desk dictionary (distributed through TRS)

Additional readings and viewings as required

Additional Materials:

A small (approximately 6"x8") notebook for your journal; a spiral notebook is fine

Computer disks or drive on which to save papers

Folder with pockets to hold printouts of intermediate and final drafts

Goals: To develop greater fluency in generating ideas, to master fine points of developing and supporting a thesis, to understand the use and documentation of research, to revise and edit your own writing, to read, hear, think about, and discuss challenging ideas.

Writing: This is a writing-centered course. There will be a journal, a short personal essay, three papers approximately 4 pages each, an 8-10 page research paper, all with preliminary assignments and revisions, and a great deal of exploratory writing and "writing to learn."

Essay Format: All out-of-class writing should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides, except for the journal, which must be handwritten. Using a computer is encouraged. Do not right-justify, or use type larger than 12-point (the size used in this handout).

Readings: These will include selections from the handbook and the Norton Reader, selected handouts, including, by permission of the author, Lewis G. Shiner's essay "Literature Has Betrayed Us," and his short story "The War at Home." There will be a schedule of readings. It is important that you follow it.

Class: This is not generally a lecture course. Think of it as a lab or workshop, in which you will read, write, discuss, analyze, and critique both your own work and that of others, sometimes with the entire class, sometimes individually or in small groups. Each student

will do a presentation. We will be focusing on the process of writing; therefore the stages of each assignment will be very important.

Responsibilities: We have a lot of work to do on a very tight schedule. You need to attend class faithfully and get work done on time, to participate fully and productively in discussions, both in class and online, and to build consistently on what you have learned.

Policies:

- You must turn in all papers (including preliminary material and revisions) and your journal, as well as prepare the readings, participate in discussions, and take part in workshops, to complete the class successfully. Writing multiple drafts is not an option; it is a course requirement.
- Work, both reading and writing, must be completed on time; late work will receive point penalties. If one assignment is late, the penalty will be one point. If there is another, the penalty for the second will be two points, and so on. Missing peer group work, or not having your own work ready for peer editing, will result in an automatic 5-point penalty, as others' time is wasted as well as your own.
- Attendance counts. More than two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter. Tardiness also disrupts the flow of our work and will be penalized at 1 point the first time, 2 the second, and so on.
- There will be three required conferences during the semester. These are mandatory. Missing them will result in point penalties of 3 points per missed conference.
- Exceptions will be made case-by-case, according to catalogue policies, for serious illness, emergency, or representation of the university in an official activity.
- No cell phones, iPods, mp3 players etc. in the classroom. Turn them *off* and put them away before you come in, and do not take them out and turn them on again until you've left the classroom. Period.

Grading Scale (based on 100 points):

5 points – short (two to three pages) personal essay

45 points – three four-page papers, 15 points each

25 points – 8 to 10 page research paper

10 points – journal

15 points – participation/oral presentation/general involvement/shorter writing etc.

Papers will be graded according to the English Department Standards for Grading Essays and criteria for individual assignments.

This is a writing-centered course. There will be no final examination, but you will write until you submit your last pieces of writing for evaluation on the last class day.

Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP): You must submit an essay from either English 1091G (this class) or 1002/1092G to your Electronic Writing Portfolio this year. Instructions and deadlines will be provided in class.

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

Plagiarism: The English Department's policy—"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 course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs office. Plagiarism may include any handling of documentation which misrepresents the use of another author's work. We will study methods of research and documentation, which all students will be expected to follow, most papers will require some documentation, and adherence to standard MLA format is required.

Please note: All policies and guidelines, including those for grading, are necessarily tentative. An announcement in class will be considered sufficient notification for any change in course policy, assignments, or scheduling.

Specific paper topics will be assigned in class. They will not be "canned" assignments which you can do without reference to class, but will be based on the readings and discussions.

Papers are due at the BEGINNING of the class period on the date specified. Due dates of paper assignments:

Opening essay/writing sample Aug. 22

Paper #1 Personal Essay Workshop draft August 31, grading draft plus cover letter Sept. 7; please note that on Sept. 7 we will meet in Booth Library for an introduction to resources for researching papers in English and writing classes.

Paper #2 Workshop draft Sept. 14, grading draft plus cover letter Sept. 21

Paper #3 Workshop draft Sept. 28, grading draft plus cover letter Oct. 5

Paper #4 Workshop draft Oct. 12, grading draft plus cover letter Oct. 19

Research Paper Schedule (all research paper assignments must be in writing; they are due at the beginning of the class period specified):

Preliminary statement of topic due in writing Oct. 26

Preliminary source list due in writing, in correct MLA format due Nov. 2

Thesis statement and one-page progress report plus revised source list due Nov. 9

Workshop draft due Nov. 16

Grading draft plus cover letter due Nov. 30.

A note regarding drafting: You are expected to do at least two preliminary drafts before bringing a paper to workshop, and another before submitting the paper to be graded. In addition, the paper you submit to the Electronic Writing Portfolio may be revised once more before it is submitted to the portfolio.

Revision does NOT mean merely correcting errors. It means re-thinking, reorganizing, and substantive rewriting, and is not to be confused with proofreading, which you must also do.

Journal instructions:

You will need a spiral-bound notebook approximately 6 x 8", or other notebook of about the same size which *lies flat when opened*.

Use this notebook for your English 1091 journal ONLY. Do NOT use it for class or reading notes, assignments, or anything other than journal writing. Do not use it to draft papers.

You must write in your journal, by hand, at least two sides per entry, at least three times per week, preferably on the days we do not meet for class.

You must write three entries per week until October 5, 2006. The first week begins with the first day of class, today, August 22. Continuing after October 5 is optional.

Use your journal to reflect on the reading, to formulate questions for class discussion, to think through and reflect on your own writing process, your experiences in classes, and anything else which affects you as a student. It should in no case be a mere narration of the events of your day. You may include these insofar as they reflect on your life as a student, but should always be accompanied by analysis, thought and reflection. I may on occasion suggest topics for you to write in your journal about, but more often will not.