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ENG 1001G-038: Composition and Language

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 M-W-F at 2 pm (Cole2721)
 Fall 2007

English 1001G - 038 Syllabus

Class Participation: One quarter of your grade is based on participation and in-class writing assignments.

Late Policy: Papers are due at the beginning of class and are marked down one letter grade per class period they are late. In an attempt to be flexible, but also because I don't want to deal with dying grandmothers, computer crashes, or Unofficial Saint Patrick's Day, I will grant each student a single two-day extension on any paper, no questions asked.

Grading

Project 1 (20%)
 Project 2 (20%)
 Final Essay (25%)
 Participation and in-class presentations (20%)
 Final Exam (15%)

Required Texts: Most of the readings and many of the images discussed in this class will be taken from *Beyond Words: Reading and Writing in a Visual Age*. You are expected to have this book with you every day. We may also refer to *The Norton Reader* for a select few texts—you will be informed when it is necessary to have in class. The 5th Edition *Blair Handbook* is a grammar manual—it is available to help you with citations and writing questions, and I will use it to augment our grammar workshops.

Attendance Policy: As this class draws heavily on classroom discussion and in-class writing, attendance is very important. You are allowed two unexcused absences before they will begin affecting your grade. After that, each absence will subtract 2% from your final grade. If, for example, you skip every Friday during this ten-week class, a solid A (95%) will become a C (79%).

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.*

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1 – Welcome to English 1001

- Monday, Aug 20th: Introduction to class, syllabus, and classmates.
Wednesday, Aug 22nd: Life as a text.
Friday, Aug 24th: Viewing of *The Colbert Report*. In-class comedy writing.

Week 2 – “Paying Attention: Reading Texts”

- Monday, Aug 27th: Genre, medium, and conventions.
Wednesday, Aug 29th: September 11th as a text.
Friday, Aug 31st: Field trip: Eastern Illinois University as a text. Assign in-class presentations.

Week 3 – In-Class Presentations

- Monday, Sept 3rd: Labor Day: no class.
Wednesday, Sept 5th: In-class presentations.
Friday, Sept 7th: In-class presentations.

Week 4 – More In-Class Presentations and Discussion of Project #1

- Monday, Sept 10th: In-class presentations.
Wednesday, Sept 12th: In-class presentations.
Friday, Sept 14th: Discussion of Project #1.

Week 5 – “Getting Attention: Composing Texts”

- Monday, Sept 17th: Purpose and audience.
Wednesday, Sept 19th: Media and research.
Friday, Sept 21st: Project #1 due. Deadline for withdrawal. Group discussion of essays.

Week 6 – Project #1 Presentations

- Monday, Sept 24th: Project #1 presentations.
Wednesday, Sept 26th: Project #1 presentations.
Friday, Sept 28th: Project #1 presentations.

Week 7 – “Picturing Ourselves: Writing to Express Identities”

- Monday, Oct 1st: Identity: race, class, gender. Read Susan Bordo’s “The Empire of Images in Our World of Bodies” (*Beyond Words* pages 105-114).
Wednesday, Oct 3rd: Discussion of “The Empire of Images.”
Friday, Oct 5th: Discussion of in-class writings.

Week 8 – “Seeing Places: Writing to Describe Landscapes and Environments”

- Monday, Oct 8th: Contexts and composition techniques for environments. Read David Brooks’ “Our Sprawling, Supersize Utopia” (*Beyond Words* pages 186-194).

- Wednesday, Oct 10th: Human figure, colors, and light. Discussion of text. Deadline for no-grade drop.
Friday, Oct 12th: Fall break: no class.

Week 9 – “Moving Pictures: Writing to Tell Stories”

- Monday, Oct 15th: Genres of visual imagery. Figures, speakers, action, and context. In-class vote on movie clips.
Wednesday, Oct 17th: Movie clip marathon.
Friday, Oct 19th: Movie clip marathon and introduction to Project #2.

Week 10 – “Mapping Ideas: Writing to Inform and Explain”

- Monday, Oct 22nd: Genre, subject, context, and structural elements. Read Joan O’C. Hamilton’s “A Sharper Picture of Health” (*Beyond Words* pages 370-377)
Wednesday, Oct 24th: Discussion of “A Sharper Picture of Health” and other informative sources.
Friday, Oct 26th: Viewing and discussion of *Sesame Street*. Project #2 due.

Week 11 – Essay Workshop

- Monday, Oct 29th: Essay workshop.
Wednesday, Oct 30th: Essay workshop.
Friday, Nov 2nd: Essay workshop.

Week 12 – “Exploring Design: Writing to Analyze”

- Monday, Nov 5th: Style, design language, function, form, and context. Revisions for Essay #2 due.
Wednesday, Nov 7th: Focus, balance, repetition, patterns, contrasts, font, and materials. Read Pilar Viladas’ interview with Niels Diffrient, “A Machine for Sitting” (*Beyond Words* pages 442 to 445).
Friday, Nov 9th: Discussion of “A Machine for Sitting” and on writing for other classes.

Week 13 – “Debating Culture: Writing to Advocate and Persuade”

- Monday, Nov 12th: Medium, contexts, and basic elements. Read Rosalind Wiseman’s “Cliques no Worse than Ever” (*Beyond Words* pages 549 to 553).
Wednesday, Nov 14th: Discussion of Rosalind Wiseman’s “Cliques” and feminism.
Friday, Nov 16th: Fast food and introduction to final essay.

Week 14

- Monday, Nov 19th: No class: Thanksgiving break.
Wednesday, Nov 21st: No class: Thanksgiving break.
Friday, Nov 23rd: No class: Thanksgiving break.

Week 15 – Grammar Workshop

- Monday, Nov 26th: Grammar workshop.

Wednesday, Nov 28th: Grammar workshop. Topics due for final essay.
Friday, Nov 30th: Grammar workshop.

Week 16 – Conferences

Monday, Dec 3rd: No class: conferences.
Wednesday, Dec 5th No class: conferences.
Friday, Dec 7th: Review for final exam, evaluations, and farewells.

Your final essay will be due on the day of your final.