

English 101: Expository Writing
Oxford College of Emory University
Fall 2006: TTH: 10-11:15, Oxford Library, Study Room

Instructor: Elizabeth Simoneau

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Office: 711 Emory Street

Office Hours: Thursdays 8:30-9:30AM and by appointment.

Please Note: All information in this syllabus is subject to changes that will meet the needs and interest of your particular class.

Required Texts:

1. Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. Boston: Bedford Books.
2. Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.
3. Pack, Robert, ed. *Writers on Writing*. <http://www.netlibrary.com>
4. Strunk, William Jr., and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.
5. Readings on Electronic Reserve (ER)

Course Descriptions:

This course is designed to introduce students to college level writing. For the first two-thirds of the semester we will be reading essays in which writers discuss the art of writing and the creative process. Students will evaluate these essays in terms of the author's style, tone, and to some extent, argument. Students will be expected to understand and evaluate the position that the authors are advocating and how well they support it. For the remaining portion of the class we will be reading analyses and criticism of popular culture by both journalists and academics. This is intended to introduce students to the difference between popular and academic writing and to familiarize students with the kinds of articles they may encounter in their final paper research.

Course Requirements and Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is crucial to your success in this course; you are expected to be an active participant in all class discussions. Excused absences are granted only with advance notice (except in extreme emergencies) and appropriate documentation. Otherwise, you are granted **two** unexcused absences. After that, I reserve the right to lower your grade based on your attendance rate. In all cases, you are responsible for getting notes **from a classmate**.

Participation: This class is based on the premise that knowledge is constructed through an (inter)active process rather than observe passively. Therefore, the format for the course will be a combination of lecture and discussion, with an emphasis on dialogue and sharing

perspectives. Readings should be completed on the date they are listed in the syllabus and you should come to class prepared for discussion with questions and concerns. **I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if I feel students are not keeping up with the reading.**

Writing Responses: Writing responses are designed to hone your writing and critical thinking skills with respect to the ideas presented in the course. You will be expected to turn a 1-2 page response for the first five weeks of class. These responses should evaluate the author's position, writing style (tone, use of literary devices and so forth), specific points that you find compelling and/or troubling, and connections to other class material. Although designed to be informal, these responses should be concise and focused.

Annotations: For each of the articles that you choose for your research paper, you are expected to turn in an annotation of 150-300 words, a critical evaluation of the author's thesis, use of evidence, and so forth. Unlike a response, which evaluates more than one article and their relationships to other class material, annotations refer to one citation and its relationship to your research paper.

Short Essays: (4-5 pages) This semester you will write two short essays, one of which will be exchanged with another student for a peer review. The first will be an autobiographical essay and the second, a review of a book, movie, or album of your choosing. Details regarding these essays and the peer review will be distributed in advance. For the second essay, we will have a peer review exercise in which you will exchange papers with one of your classmates and prepare a response to his or her essay.

Final Paper/Presentation: (7-10 pages) Your final paper will be an expository essay on a topic of your own choosing. Early in the semester you will submit a paper proposal. For each topic you will find seven articles, at least three of which must be from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. For each of these articles, you will submit an annotation, similar in structure to your weekly responses. Final papers are due in my mailbox on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH by 5PM.**

Grading:

Participation	20%
Writing Responses/ Annotations	20%
Essays/Peer Review	30%
Final Paper	30%

Late Papers:

Please note that all assignments are due on the dates designated on the syllabus. If an emergency arises and **you make arrangements with me ahead of time**, I may agree to accept a late assignment. If I do not agree or if prior arrangements have not been made, you will receive a lowered grade for that assignment. You should know that any such emergency requires a doctor's note or a letter from the dean.

Paper Format:

All papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, in 10 or 12 point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins and numbered pages. Proper citation is required and you may use whatever citation format you are most familiar with. I reserve the right to lower your grade if your

writing exhibits an unacceptable amount of grammar and formatting mistakes. If you have concerns, please see me or make an appointment with the writing center. I also recommend purchasing a style guide. Your response papers and exams should not merely repeat class discussions or consist of article descriptions and/or plot summaries. They should demonstrate critical, analytical, and reflective thinking on the arguments and issues presented in the readings.

Resources

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990:

Emory University complies with the regulations of the American of Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. Oxford requires that you have documentation from the Office of Disability Services. If you are in need of classroom accommodation, please make an appointment with me to discuss this as soon as possible. All information will be kept confidential. You can reach the office of Disability Services by calling 770-784-8415 or stopping by their offices in Branham Hall in the student health suite. Their website is <http://www.ods.emory.edu/oxford.htm>.

The Writing Center:

Oxford's Writing center is an excellent source of students. Please do not hesitate to contact the Center for help with all aspects of the writing process. For additional information their website is: http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/WritingCenter/the_writing_center.htm

Citing Your Sources and Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of stealing the ideas and/or words of another writer and passing them off as one's own. When a researcher uses someone else's ideas, he/she is required to credit the source. The student should always read, take notes, and then write the paper in his/her own words. Any source used in research (books, articles, web material, etc.) must be credited in the final document. Students are required to review the Oxford's honor code and information on citing sources: <http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CampusLife/Policies/>

Course Schedule

Week 1:	Introduction to Course
Thu Aug 31	Cancelled
Week 2:	
Tue Sept 5	Introduction and Housekeeping
Thu Sept 7	Lamott, Part One, pp. xi-43 RESPONSE ONE DUE
Week 3:	

Tue Sept 12 Lamott, Part One, 44-94

Thu Sept 14 Lamott, Part Two, pp. 95-130
RESPONSE TWO DUE

Week 4:

Tue Sept 19 Lamott, Part Three, pp. 131-182

Thu Sept 21 "On Keeping a Notebook," by Joan Didion, (HO)
"Excerpts from a Journal," by Joyce Carol Oats, (Pack)
RESPONSE THREE DUE

Week 5:

Tue Sept 26 "Thinking About Shakespeare's Sister" by Virginia Woolfe, (ER)
"In Search of Our Mother's Gardens" by Alice Walker, (ER)

Thu Sept 28 "Poetry is Not a Luxury," by Audre Lorde, (ER)
RESPONSE FOUR DUE

Week 6:

Tue Oct 3 "On Autobiography" by Leigh Gilmore, (HO)
"Zami: A New Spelling of My Name, (ER)

Thu Oct 5 "No Name Woman," by Maxine Hong Kingston, (ER)
RESPONSE FIVE DUE
PAPER PROPOSALS DUE

Week 7:

Tue Oct 10 **FALL BREAK**

Thu Oct 12 "Against Metaphor," by T.R. Hummer, (Pack)
"On Wording," by Robert Pack, (Pack)
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS DUE

Week 8: MIDTERM EVALUATIONS

Tue Oct 17 "Remembrance of Tense Past," (Pack)
"On Tone," by Ellen Bryant Voight, (Pack)

Thu Oct 19 "Directions: Write, Read, Rewrite. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 as Needed," by Susan Sontag, (ER)
ANNOTATION ONE DUE

Week 9:

Tue Oct 24	<p>"A Reluctant Muse Embraces His Task, and Everything Changes," by Jane Smiley, (ER)</p> <p>"Life of Prose and Poetry: An Inspiring Combination," by Marge Piercy (ER)</p>
Thu Oct 26	<p>"To Invigorate Literary Mind, Start Moving Literary Feet" by Joyce Carol Oates, (ER)</p> <p>ANNOTATION TWO DUE</p>
Week 10:	
Tue Oct 31	<p>"Hidden Within Technologies Empire, A Republic of Letters" by Saul Bellow, (ER)</p> <p>"Despite Tough Guys, Life is Not the Only School for Real Novelists," by Kurt Vonnegut, (ER)</p>
Thu Nov 2	<p>"A Sacred Magic Can Elevate the Secular Storyteller," by Elie Wiesel</p> <p>ANNOTATION THREE DUE</p>
Week 11:	
Tue Nov 7	<p>"Country Hicks and Urban Cliques: Mediating Race, Reality, and Liberalism on MTV's <i>The Real World</i>," (ER)</p>
Thu Nov 9	<p>Selection from, <i>Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs</i> by Chuck Klosterman</p> <p>ANNOTATION FOUR DUE</p>
Week 12:	
Tue Nov 14	<p>Selection from <i>Blues Legacies and Black Feminism</i> by Angela Davis, (ER)</p>
Thu Nov 16	<p>"Astral Weeks," by Lester Bangs, (ER)</p> <p>ANNOTATION FIVE DUE</p>
Week 13:	
Tue Nov 21	<p>Film Screening, "Deadwood" (Season 1, Episode 1)</p> <p>ESSAY #2, PAPER EXCHANGE</p>
Thu Nov 23	<p>THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS</p>
Week 14:	
Tue Nov 28	<p>"Am I Paranoid Enough" by Robert A. Rushing, (ER)</p>

“Robert Penn Warren, David Milch, and the Literary Contexts of Deadwood,” (ER)

Thu Nov 30 Selection from *A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again*, by David Foster Wallace, (ER)
ANNOTATION SIX DUE

Week 15:

Tue Dec 5 Selection from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Philosophy: Fear and Trembling in Sunnydale*, by James B. South, ed. (ER)

Thu Dec 7 Selections from *Seven Seasons of Buffy: Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Discuss Their Favorite Television Show*, (ER)
ESSAY #2 AND PEER RESPONSES DUE
ANNOTATION SEVEN DUE

Week 16:

Tue Dec 12 Conclusion, Final Thoughts, etc.

Final Paper Due: Wednesday, December 20 by 5PM in my box.