



ENGL 251-01, Advanced Essay Writing, Spring 1999

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English 251: Advanced Essay Writing

Professor J. Brady
Palmer 306 (office)
843-3906 (office phone)

Spring, 1999
B and C Hours, in
Palmer 203

Reading List:

Joan Didion, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* ([1968] Noonday)
Joan Didion, *The White Album* ([1979] Noonday)
Joan Didion, "When Did Music Come This Way? Children Dear, Was It Yesterday?" (1967, short story, handout)
Henry James, *The Aspern Papers and The Turn of the Screw* ([1888-1898] Penguin)
Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* ([1930] Norton)
Alice Munro, *Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You* ([1974] Plume Fiction)
Billy Wilder, *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), film, Burrow Library
Billy Wilder, *Double Indemnity* (1944). film, Burrow Library
James M. Cain, *Double Indemnity* ([1935] Vintage)
Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 4th edition (St. Martins)

Office Hours:

Monday, 1:30-2:30
Wednesday, 1:30-3:00
Monday-Friday, 11:30-12:00

Course Description:

This is a course in *analytic essay writing*, not creative writing. You will write 5 essays of between 1000 and 1250 words over the semester, on average submitting an essay every three weeks. The grades on your essays will be averaged to produce a final grade, with class participation being awarded a grade equivalent to that of an essay in calculating your grade in this course. Each student is permitted one (unpenalized) extension on a paper deadline during the semester.

The class will operate as a seminar and every person's work will be read over the term. The identity of the writers of the papers I select for discussion will be kept confidential. The essays are chosen largely on a rotational basis to ensure that each student's work is responded to throughout the term. Your responsibility in reading your classmates' work will include, beyond discussing their essays in class, your handing in a *typed* and *signed* evaluation of each essay immediately after the discussion to be returned to the writer, together with my comments. The goal here is to provide each of you with diverse feedback and with helpful, precise, and constructive criticism as well as concrete suggestions for revision from your

classmates. You should also note mechanical errors (spelling, grammar, punctuation) on your copies of your classmates' work.

All submissions are to be proofed carefully by the writer for mechanical errors. You are also to pledge that you have done so.

English 251

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A primary assumption in English 251 is that attention to revision is a key to good writing. You may rewrite *up to three* of your essays over the term. Revised papers are regraded, and your grade improves if -- and only if -- your essay shows a substantive (versus, say, a cosmetic) improvement over the original submission. The first, graded copy of the essay must be attached to the revision so that I can compare the two versions; if you do not supply me with your original draft I will not reread the essay.

All revisions must be submitted *before* the due date for the next assignment.

Essays

handed in late (beyond your one allowable extension) will be penalized by at least a grade and may not be revised.

A large portion of your grade for participation in this seminar will be determined by your classmates' report at the end of semester on the value to them of your written and oral comments on their essays. However, please read the Attendance Policy below for further crucial information on your in-class grade.

Attendance Policy:

Late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence and any student who misses (or who is counted absent from) class more than 6 times will receive a zero for class participation and will be asked to withdraw from the class, with either a WF (Withdraw failing) or, after the end of the withdraw period on March 26th., an F in the course.

