

## Honors Composition II

ENGL 1027

Spring 2004

Professor: Dr. Jeff Melton  
Office: 330 Liberal Arts  
Office Ph.: 244-3882  
Email: <jmelton@mail.aum.edu>  
Office Hrs.: 9:00-11:00 a.m., TT; 1:30-2:30 p.m., TT; & by appt.

Textbooks: Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*  
Fannie Flagg, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*  
Fred Chappell, *I Am One of You Forever*  
Terry Gilliam, director, *Brazil* (film provided by the professor)

Additional required readings (short stories and criticism) will be accessible via Internet sources and AUM library holdings.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A continuation of ENGL 1017, this course will help you to become a more effective reader, thinker, and writer. We will emphasize individual practice and peer editing in order to improve these skills for each of you. The classroom will often become a workshop in which you will share ideas and experiences. By helping others and working diligently individually, you will develop your own analytical reading, thinking, and writing. This second course in the composition series will focus our attention on literature and the intellectual, social, and psychological complexities implicit in this variegated art form. Although our primary goal is to further apply critical thinking and writing, we will also gain a stronger understanding of literary expression as a mode for exploring human experience.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

We will again use the Portfolio system for our course work, meaning that all of your essays may be revised throughout the semester as your time and inclination allow before they receive an official grade. You will write **four** official essays based on class readings and discussions along with your personal thinking. The length of each essay will be variable depending on your interests and choices; however, the total page length of the final versions of your essays must be **16 pages** (assuming a **minimum of 250 words per page**). You will also be evaluated on your **daily work**, and a **final exam**. You **must** pass the exam, and you **must** complete all of the assignments in order to pass the course, despite mathematical possibilities which may suggest otherwise. The explanations of the course requirements and the grade percentages are as follows:

#### **Portfolio (70%)**

I will read and comment on your work throughout the semester, as will your classmates, but I will not grade it. You may provide me with as many versions of specific essays as you wish, and I will do the same for each. With each revision, you will explain to me your changes in

conference or on an attached sheet of paper. Please note some time restrictions for revisions on the syllabus. You **must** revise the returned first drafts of the formal essays at least once, and you may wait until the final class period when the Portfolio is due to submit your revised version. However, you may choose (and should choose) to do so several times during the semester, numbering each draft that you submit (2nd, 3rd, etc.), thus providing yourself with additional opportunities to strengthen your work.

**You must turn in a complete and acceptable draft (as specified by the specific assignment) by the initial due date.** If you do not turn in an acceptable first draft on the initial due date, you will receive a “zero” for that portion of your portfolio. **THERE WILL BE NO LATE DRAFTS ACCEPTED.** At the end of the semester, you will submit your complete portfolio with all final drafts of your essays **and** all earlier drafts. Any Portfolio without at least two formal versions of each essay will be incomplete. I will grade your portfolio as a finished product only then.

All drafts of your articles must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. All drafts must have a title page with the title of the essay, your name, draft number, course number, date, and my name.

### **Final Exam (20%)**

At the assigned exam day and time, you will write an in-class essay based on the skills you will have developed throughout the semester. We will discuss the exam in more detail in the last week of class.

### **Daily Work (10%)**

Throughout the semester, you will have short writing assignments based on our readings and class discussions; they will be done both in-class and out-of-class and will often (but not always) relate to your major essays. In addition, we will often conduct group work that will be evaluated for your participation. If the need arises, we will have reading quizzes to ensure that you are doing the course reading.

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

### **The professor will:**

- be available for questions throughout the semester during office hours or at other times by appointment;
- be fair and consistent in grading;
- make the classroom open to any thoughtful and responsible discussion; and
- challenge students to think critically.

### **The students will:**

- meet with the professor early in the course if they are having any problems with the course material;
- accept responsibility for understanding course requirements and grading policies;
- offer their thoughts for class discussions; and
- keep open minds regarding course material and other students.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Since this course will be a workshop, your attendance is vital to the success of the class as a

whole and to you as an individual writer. You may miss **five** classes without directly endangering your grade. After the fifth absence, your final grade may be lowered one letter for each additional miss. After your ninth miss, you may fail the course. **THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES.** You are responsible for making up missed assignments, although no quizzes may be made up.

### NOTES

ENGL 1017 (or 1010) is a prerequisite for this course; **if you have not completed it with a ‘C’ or better, you may not be in this class.** There is no exception to this university policy.

Faculty in the School of Liberal Arts make every effort to accommodate unique and special needs with respect to speech, hearing, vision, seating, or other possibly disabling conditions. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible of requested accommodations.

A student who wishes to withdraw from the course or who has missed too many classes must complete the standard process for dropping a class by the withdrawal date for the term (see the current AUM student catalogue and schedule of classes).

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<u>Week 1</u>	
01/08	Introduction to Course; “Rebels, Misfits, and Dreamers”
<u>Week 2</u>	
01/13	“A&P”
01/15	<i>I Am One of You Forever</i>
<u>Week 3</u>	
01/20	<i>I Am One of You Forever</i>
01/22	<i>I Am One of You Forever</i>
<u>Week 4</u>	
01/27	Rough Draft Due; Peer Editing
01/29	<b>Essay #1 First Draft Due</b>
<u>Week 5</u>	
02/03	<i>Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe</i>
02/05	<i>Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe</i>
<u>Week 6</u>	
02/10	<i>Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe</i>
02/12	<i>Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe</i>
<u>Week 7</u>	
02/17	Rough Draft: Peer Editing

02/19      **Essay #2 First Draft Due;** Last day to submit revisions of Essay #1

Week 8

02/24      CONFERENCES

02/26      CONFERENCES

Week 9

03/02      *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

03/04      *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Week 10

03/09      *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

03/11      *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Week 11

03/16      Rough Draft Due; Peer Editing

03/18      **Essay #3 First Draft Due;** Last day to submit revisions of Essay #2

Week 12

03/23      *Spring Break* (no class)

03/25      *Spring Break* (no class)

Week 13

03/30      *Brazil*

04/01      *Brazil*

Week 14

04/06      *Brazil*

04/08      *Brazil*

Week 15

04/13      Rough Draft Due; Peer Editing

04/15      **Essay #4 First Draft Due;** Last day to submit revisions of Essay #3

Week 16

04/20      Workshop

04/22      Workshop

Week 17

04/27      **Portfolio Due**

Week 18

05/06      **Final Exam** (10:45 a.m.--1:15 p.m.)