ENG.101 Honors Freshman Composition
Dr. Joyce

Introduction
Freshman Composition is an introductory course in expository writing. The course offers the opportunity to work with other writers to discuss essays and other non-fiction writing and to refine your own writing. The text focuses on personal, expository, and argumentative writing as well as some examples of modern fiction. The individual goal is to learn how to read for the truth and how to write in an honest voice; the collective goal is to learn to listen to others and to share your own ideas.

The following outline will be refined as the semester progresses. Two concepts converge in this course—work and enjoyment. As you work at understanding the craft of writing, you will begin to enjoy the confidence that comes from being able to read intelligently, think logically, and write clearly.

Texts:

Absence and Lateness: Students will be dropped if they exceed four absences. Anyone arriving late must see me to be credited for attendance. Lateness will be counted as ½ absence. Leaving class early will count as a full absence.

Grading: Final grades will be based on the average of grades for six essays and an average of quiz scores and shorter assignments. Grades for late papers will be lowered ½ grade for each day after the due date.

Tentative Schedule of Readings: readings will be selected from the list below and must be completed by the first class the reading is assigned. Expect unannounced quizzes on readings. After each group of readings is a brief list of related writing formats from which essay assignments will be taken.

Orientation: History of the English Language; Walter Ong on Electronic Language Personal introductions; “A Reflection” (writing sample)
Introduction to Convergences

Personal Writing-The Memoir (weeks 1-5)
Handouts:
Elbow and Belanoff “Sharing and Responsibility”

Raymond Carver, “My Father’s Life”
Joan Didion, “Why I Write”
David Mamet, “The Rake: A Few Scenes from My Childhood,”
Adam Mayblum, ”The Price We Pay, “
Barack Obama, ”Origins,”
David Sedaris, “Me Talk Pretty One Day”
Dorothy Allison, “River of Names”
Richard Selzer, “The Masked Marvel’s Last Toehold”

Zinsser
CH.2 “Simplicity”
CH. 3 “Clutter”
Ch. 9 “The Lead and the Ending”
Ch.14 “The Memoir”

Convergences
CH.1 Depicting Identities”
   Cofer “Silent Dancing”
   Maya Lin “Between Art and Architecture”
   Family Photos 128 “The Mann Family”

CH.2 Narrative
   Weegee photos
   Nora Ephron “The Boston Photographs”
   Kathryn Shattuck “Edward Hopper”s “Office at Night’: A Close Reading”

Novella: Abani  Song for Night

Two essays due: a memoir; an essay on the family

II. EXPOSITORY WRITING weeks 6-10

Oral Report on Selected Non-Fiction—see attached List

Zinsser
CH.4 Style
Ch.5 Audience
Ch. 6 Words
Ch. 7 Usage
Ch. 10 Bits & Pieces
CH. 11 Non-fiction as Literature
Ch. 15 Science and Technology
Ch.20 The Sound of Your voice

handouts
Stephen L. Carter, “The Insufficiency of Honesty,”
Stephen King, “Everything You Need to Know about Writing Successfully-in Ten Minutes,“
William Safire, “Changing Warming,”
Convergences
CH.3 Spaces—sacred spaces, airports, cyberspace
Iyer “Nowhere Man”
Kopell “No "There” There
Zatz “Sidewalks in Cyberspace”

(Ch.4. History
“The Scopes Monkey Trial Transcript”
“My Lai Massacre Court Martial Transcript”

Ch.5 Dividing Lines
Schott “Report on the difference between Men and Women”
Patterson “Race Over”
Jhumpa Lahiri “My Two Lives”
Brooks “People Like Us”
Rodriguez “Gangstas”
Photos—"The Damn Famly; in Their Car”; “Mr.Lee “

Expository essays on a theme due; comparison essay due

III Argumentation
Convergences
Ch.6 Consumerism
“Shirley Polykoff and Miss Clarol”
Standage “Our Thirst for Bottled Water”
Kruger “I shop therefore I am”
Allison “What did you Expect?”
Paglia “The Pitfalls of Plastic Surgery”
Gladwell “The Coolhunt”
Adbusters “Think Globally Before you Decide its So Cool”
Wilson “A Look Under the Hoodie”

Types of Argument: Classical, Rogerian, Toulmin

Argumentative Essay Due; process essay due

IV. Research Essay

MLA Formatt
Short Stories
Handouts:
Ernest Hemingway “A Clean, Well-lighted Place” or “Hills Like White Elephants”
Raymond Carver, “What We Talk about when We Talk About Love”
Joyce Carol Oates, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” 929

A documented critical essay on a short story due