

Office Hours

9:00-10:00 a.m. MW
12:00-1:00 p.m. TR

Description

English 201 is a study of argument designed to build on skills developed in English 101. You should already have experience with the most common logical fallacies and forms of argument. You should have some skill with analysis of issues and stakeholders. We will build on this foundation through our emphasis on rhetorical analysis of claims and claimants, inductive and deductive reasoning, and use of evidence. Since the quality of your writing and thinking depends on the depth and range of your reading, you should expect to engage a variety of texts with some complexity.

Required Texts

Aristotle. *On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse*. Trans. George A. Kennedy. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2007. Print. [ISBN #9780195305098]
Engel, S. Morris. *With Good Reason: An Introduction to Informal Fallacies*. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000. [ISBN #9780312157586]
Winterson, Jeanette. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*. New York: Grove, 1997. [ISBN #9780802135162]

Reference Text

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print. [ISBN #9781603290241]

Evaluation

In a college environment it's the student's responsibility to perform whatever extra work is necessary (e.g., vocabulary development, background research) to understand and fulfill the obligations of the course. Your thoroughness, insight, and intellectual curiosity this semester will shape the resulting grade and, more importantly, the reasoning skills you develop.

Failure to submit an essay on the due date in the required form will result in a one-letter grade deduction per day. All writing projects must be completed and submitted as described in individual assignment sheets.

Failure to bring a full and revised draft for workshop day will result in a one-letter grade deduction for the essay.

While you may consult the professor regarding the quality of your work or particular problems you experience, it's up to you to monitor your own effort, progress, and points. Points will be awarded according to the following percentages:

Critical Thinking Essay – 10%
Research Annotations – 20%
Oranges Essay – 20%

Revised & Extended *Oranges* Essay – 20%
Midterm Exam – 15%
Final Exam – 15%

Attendance

I expect that each of you will be in class, with a grasp of the reading assignment for the day, and ready to advance class discussion with insightful commentary. If you should miss a class, you must *contact a classmate* (NOT your professor) to request notes. Absence due to required attendance at an IVC event must be arranged in advance with the professor and will be excused. All other absences are unexcused. *Three unexcused absences = dropped from the course.*

Ethics Issues

No student may attempt to use this class or its assignments to advocate *discriminatory speech* or implement it as a weapon against other students, the professor, or parties/identities not present/represented. Recognizable, historically determined bigotry creates a toxic environment in the classroom and impedes and discourages sound, nuanced reason; self-critique; and, realistic assessment of subject. In other words, it is the antithesis of critical thinking and investigation – our mission at IVC and in this class.

Depending on type and severity, an instance of plagiarism may be addressed with an ungraded revision; a reduced/failing grade for the project; or disciplinary action from administrative staff. If you are at all uncertain on the issue of plagiarism, show me your source materials and explain your research methodology before submitting the essay. Do not solicit “help”

from personal acquaintances. Instances of plagiarism can occur through contact with faculty unaware of professional ethics or plagiarism standards.

- *False Authorship.* Obtaining by any means another’s work, and using that work in an essay/assignment presented for a grade. False authorship includes texts copied with minor changes/adjustments, translation from another language without acknowledgement, and patchwriting several sources into one document.
- *Misrepresentation of Source.* Distorting or altering the meaning of a source text in order to support a claim. Falsification of information about the source would also fall into the category of misrepresentation. Most often, students misrepresent the text because of personal bias or inadequate reading skills.
- *Unacknowledged collaboration.* Allowing too much outside influence or re-writing of the student’s work. The individual’s consent or cooperation is irrelevant.
- *Recycling.* Submitting all or part of a text that was prepared for another assignment/course.
- *Insufficient Citation.* Including quotations or paraphrased content from another’s work with faulty, or no, citation. Direct quotations also require quotation marks or, when appropriate, block quote spacing.

Disabled Student Programs and Services

Students with documented disabilities should notify the professor and/or report to the Disabled Student Programs and Services office regarding any educational accommodations (e.g., longer testing periods) they require.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Interpret appropriately and analyze a written argument for claim, evidence, reasoning, fallacies, and overall effectiveness. (ILO 1, ILO 2)
- Develop an effective written argument containing a factual claim, providing valid and appropriate evidence, utilizing appropriate reasoning strategies, and avoiding fallacies. (ILO 1, ILO 2, ILO 3)
- Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics. (ILO 3)

Tentative Schedule

Jan 14	Rhetorical key terms	Mar 11	“Against the Sophists” (provided by prof.)
Jan 16	Review critical thinking excerpts	Mar 13	“Against the Sophists” (cont.)
Jan 21	HOLIDAY	Mar 18	<i>Antidosis</i> (provided by prof.)
Jan 23	Discuss critical thinking excerpts	Mar 20	<i>Antidosis</i> (cont.)
Jan 28	Write Critical Thinking Essay (in class)	Mar 25	Peer Review Workshop (bring essay draft)
Jan 30	<i>On Rhetoric</i> , introduction	Mar 27	Submit Oranges Essay (bring <i>WGR</i>)
Feb 4	<i>On Rhetoric</i> , book 1	Apr 1	SPRING BREAK
Feb 6	<i>On Rhetoric</i> , book 2	Apr 3	SPRING BREAK
Feb 11	<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> , p. 1-52	Apr 8	<i>With Good Reason</i> , part 1
Feb 13	<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> , p. 53-97	Apr 10	<i>With Good Reason</i> , part 2
Feb 18	HOLIDAY	Apr 15	<i>With Good Reason</i> , part 3
Feb 20	<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> , p. 98-141	Apr 17	<i>With Good Reason</i> , part 4
Feb 25	Definition handout: “ideology”	Apr 22	Peer Review Workshop (bring revision draft)
Feb 27	Definition handout: “hegemony”	Apr 24	Submit Revised/Extended Oranges Essay
Mar 4	Submit Research Annotations	Apr 29	Midterm Review
Mar 6	Midterm Exam	May 1	Midterm Review (cont.)
		May 6	Final Exam