

## Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Summer 2025</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Dr. Cynthia J. Spence</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>English 201 – Advanced Composition</b>	Email:	<b>cynthia.spence@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #:	<b>30122</b>	Webpage:	<b>None</b>
Classroom:	<b>Fully Online</b>	Office #:	#2786 – We are not on campus this summer
Class Dates:	<b>June 16, 2025 – July 24, 2025</b>	Office Hours:	Send me an email if you have questions, I try and respond within 24 hours.
Class Days:	<b>Fully online</b>	Office Phone #:	#760-355-5702 – Since I am not on campus during the summer session, phone calls are not a point of contact.
Class Times:	Asynchronous Online: Asynchronous learning happens on your schedule. While your instructor will provide materials for reading, lectures for viewing, assignments for completing, and exams for evaluation, you have the ability to access and satisfy these requirements within a one-week time frame. Assignments will be posted on Monday in a weekly module and should be completed by Sunday 11:59 p.m. in order to be considered on time.	Type of Class:	This is an <b>accelerated course</b> . You will be completing 16 weeks of work in just six weeks. <b>There is an extensive amount of reading and writing required in a relatively short amount of time.</b>  <b>This class is intensive. If we were meeting face-to-face you would be in class four days a week and would also be required to submit homework after every class. Many of the assignments in the weekly modules will not take much time, but some will. Pace yourself and do not wait until the end of the week to begin working.</b>
Units:	3	Emergency Contact:	<b>cynthia.spence@imperial.edu</b>

## Course Description

ENGL 201 emphasizes critical thinking in reading and writing beyond that achieved in ENGL 110 or ENGL 101. Written argumentation will focus on deduction and induction, an understanding of the fallacies of language and thought, the application of valid evidence, and refutation. (CSU, UC)

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Interpret appropriately and analyze a written argument for claim, evidence, reasoning, fallacies, and overall effectiveness. (ILO1, ILO2)
2. Develop an effective written argument containing a factual claim, providing valid and appropriate evidence, utilizing appropriate reasoning strategies, and avoiding fallacies. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3)
3. Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics. (ILO3)

## Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Student will identify the structure of arguments, including the assertions/claims and the proof/support.
2. Student will analyze arguments critically, evaluating multiple arguments for validity and soundness, distinguishing fact from judgment and knowledge from opinion, and differentiating relevant from irrelevant support.
3. Student will analyze and construct both deductive and inductive arguments.
4. Student will write argumentative prose that defines, that analyzes casual relationships, that advocates solutions, that evaluates judgments, and that refutes other arguments. Student will identify formal and informal fallacies in language and thought.
5. Student will recognize and apply the effects of denotation and connotation; emotive language; and various figures of speech, especially metaphor, within argumentative prose.
6. Student will revise written drafts and edit appropriately for an academic audience, observing conventions of coherence, unity, purpose, grammar, mechanics, and documentation.
7. Students will write essays and research papers, mostly argumentative and analytical, composing a total of at least 6,000 words (approximately 24 pages) of formal writing.

## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

**This is a ZTC/OER Course -Zero Textbook Cost/Online Educational Resources**  
**All reading materials are provided free on Canvas**

Scholars have articulated the rationale for using a **theme based approach** as a “meaningful” way to personally engage students in the learning process (Handal & Bobis, 2004; Lipson, et al., 1993); connect to students’ life experiences, interests, and existing knowledge bases (Handal & Bobis, 2004; Lipson, et al., 1993; Mangan, 2014); **create a focus for learners that reveals connections among knowledge areas** (Lipson, et al., 1993); promote positive attitudes in learners (Lipson, et al., 1993); **and improve student success/achievement** (Handal & Bobis, 2004; Mangan, 2014). Mangan (2014) reports increased student performance in theme-based classes, citing an 87% pass rate in “fear and horror” themed introductory English classes at a community college, compared to a 78% pass rate in traditional versions of these classes across the Texas community college system.

The theme for our course is “**Argument Through the Lens of the United States Supreme Court.**” All the course readings and assignments will be based on this theme

### **E-book Provided Free on Canvas**

Rubinstein, Justine. *The Supreme Court*. National Highlights Inc, 2020. *EBSCOhost*, <https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.imperial.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2652055&site=ehost-live>.

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement. English 201 is a 3-unit college level English class.



This means students should expect to spend three hours a week in our Canvas shell and six hours a week outside of the Canvas shell reading, studying, researching, and writing. However, Summer semester **meets four days a week. These classes are fast and furious and three times more accelerated than a regular semester. Expect to log on to your course at least four days a week and spend 3-6 hours each day learning and completing assignments for a single class.**

## Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading Scale: 0-599 = F, 600-699 = D, 700-799 = C, 800-899 = B, 900 -1000 = A

**\*\*\*I do not round point totals up or down\*\*\***

Text-Dependent Chapter Questions	6 X 20	120
Chapter Research Projects	6 X 20	120
Discussion Threads	12 X 20	240
Amendment Summaries	5 X 20	100
Supreme Court Jurist Case Analysis Essay		100
Traditional Argument Essay		100
Rogerian Essay		100
Quizzes	6 X 20	120
Point Total		1000

I have designed the course in the student's favor, I tend to grade in the student's favor, and I offer several extra credit opportunities. With this in mind, a point total of 799 will receive a C, not a B. However, a point total of 800 will receive a B, not a C. I encourage you to watch your point total during the course, not your percentage total on individual assignments, and work towards the grade you would like to receive. I accept late work, but there will be a deduction in points for the assignment.

## Course Policies

### Attendance:

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. **The "Check-in Discussion Post" must be completed by Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup> or you will be dropped from the course.**

### What does it mean to "attend" an online class?

Attendance is critical to student success and for IVC to use federal aid funds. Acceptable indications of attendance are:

- Student submission of an academic assignment
- Student submission of an exam
- Documented student interaction with class postings, such as an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction via modules
- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an assignment created by the instructor
- A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters

- An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student has initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course.

**Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance by the student.**

*Academic Honesty* There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following examples of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- **Asking someone else to write your essay or using an essay writing service is a serious academic honesty infraction.**
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero "0" on the exam, essay, or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. A plagiarism score above 25% is a serious error and will result in a point deduction on the essay.

**Anyone who allows another student to copy discussion threads, summaries, or essays will also receive a "0" on the assignment – enabling another student to cheat is also cheating.** Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service. **Also remember, that any paper you have written and submitted to another teacher for a grade no longer belongs to you, it belongs to the instructor and can't be submitted in this class for a grade.**

**There is an entire plagiarism module available to you in our course Canvas shell** if you need more information, but you can always feel free to discuss any questions before you submit your assignment.

## IVC Student Resources

- IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.



## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

**\*\*\*The Assignment Calendar is Subject to Change, Changes Will Be Announced\*\*\***

Course Topics Covered	Class Assignments Due @ 11:59 p.m. on Sundays
<b>Week One – June 16th</b> Course Introduction, MLA rules review, Scholarly Articles, EBSCOhost, MLA Works Cited review, Chapter 1 – “A Visit to the Supreme Court”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Check-in Discussion Post One – must be completed by Sunday June 22nd or you will be dropped from the course.</b> (20 points)</li> <li>• Works Cited Quiz (20 points)</li> <li>• Plagiarism Quiz (20 points)</li> <li>• Introductions Quiz (20 points)</li> <li>• Commas Quiz (20 points)</li> <li>• Words to Avoid in Academic Writing Quiz (20 points)</li> <li>• Paragraph Quiz (20 points)</li> <li>• Text-Dependent Questions Quiz for Chapter One (20 points)</li> <li>• Research Project for Chapter One (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Two (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Three (20 points)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Points 220</b></p>
<b>Week Two – June 23rd</b> Traditional Argument, Chapter 2 “The History of the Supreme Court”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-Dependent Questions Quiz for Chapter Two (20 points)</li> <li>• Research Project for Chapter Two (20 points)</li> <li>• Amendment Summary One (20 points)</li> <li>• Argument Thesis Approval Thread Discussion Thread Four (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Five (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Six (20 points)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Points 120</b></p>
<b>Week Three – June 30th</b> Chapter 3 “Cases That Shaped the Court” and Chapter 4 “Change and Conflict”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-Dependent Questions Quiz for Chapter Three (20 points)</li> <li>• Research Project for Chapter Three (20 points)</li> <li>• Amendment Summary Two (20 points)</li> <li>• Text-Dependent Questions Quiz for Chapter Four (20 points)</li> <li>• Research Project for Chapter Four (20 points)</li> <li>• Amendment Summary Three (20 points)</li> <li>• Traditional Argument Essay (100 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Seven (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Eight (20 points)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Points 260</b></p>
<b>Week Four – July 7th</b> Chapter 5 “How the Supreme Court Works” and Chapter 6 “How a Case is Decided.” Rogerian Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-Dependent Questions Quiz for Chapter Five (20 points)</li> <li>• Research Project for Chapter Five (20 points)</li> <li>• Amendment Summary Four (20 points)</li> <li>• Text-Dependent Questions for Chapter Six (20 points)</li> <li>• Research Project for Chapter Six (20 points)</li> <li>• Amendment Summary Five (20 points)</li> <li>• Rogerian Argument Discussion Thread Nine (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Ten (20 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Eleven (20 points)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Points 180</b></p>
<b>Week Five – July 14th</b> No new instruction – focus on completing the essays and any outstanding assignments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme Court Jurist Case Analysis Essay (100 points)</li> <li>• Discussion Thread Twelve (20 points)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Points 120</b></p>
<b>Week Six – July 21st</b> No new instruction – focus on completing the essays and any outstanding assignments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rogerian Argument Essay (100 points)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Points 100</b></p>