



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Darren Simon
Course Title & #:	English C1001 Critical Thinking and Writing	Email:	Darren.simon@imperial.edu
CRN #:	21444	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	302	Office #:	Virtual
Class Dates:	Feb. 19 to June 11	Office Hours:	Virtual
Class Days:	Thursdays	Office Phone #:	760-604-5100
Class Times:	6 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.	Emergency Contact:	760-604-5100
Units:	3	Class Format:	In-person

Course Description

This course offers advanced instruction in argumentation and critical thinking in reading and writing through the evaluation and analysis of primarily non-fiction texts. Limitation on Enrollment: Course not open to students with a "C" or higher in English 204. (C-ID: ENGL 105) (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

ENGL 110

ENGL 105 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate placement based on AB 705.

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.
2. Develop an effective written argument containing a factual claim, providing valid and appropriate evidence, utilizing appropriate reasoning strategies, and avoiding fallacies.
3. Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics

Course Objectives

1. Critically read, analyze, and evaluate complex arguments for validity and soundness, distinguishing fact from opinion, and differentiating relevant from irrelevant support.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of formal and informal fallacies in language and thought and identify such fallacies in the writings of others.
3. Identify a text's premises and assumptions in various social, historical, cultural, psychological, or aesthetic contexts.

4. Recognize and analyze rhetorical methodologies such as inductive and deductive reasoning, cause and effect, and logos, ethos, and pathos.
5. Compose thesis-driven arguments to suit a variety of rhetorical situations, including interpretation, evaluation, and analysis.
6. Find, analyze, interpret, and evaluate primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using MLA documentation without plagiarism.
7. Use style, diction, and tone appropriate to a diverse academic community and to the purpose of the specific writing task; proofread, edit, and revise essays so English grammar, usage, or punctuation does not impede clarity.
8. Write argumentative and analytical papers composing a total of at least 5,000 words of formal writing.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Textbook: (OER-ZTC)

Title of Book: A Dam Good Argument

Author: Liz Delf, Rob Drummond, and Kristy Kelly

Link: [https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/A_Dam_Good_Argument_\(Delf_Drummond_and_Kelly_Eds.\)](https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/A_Dam_Good_Argument_(Delf_Drummond_and_Kelly_Eds.))

Title of Book: Grammar Essentials

Author: Excelsior Online Writing Lab

Link: <https://owl.excelsior.edu/grammar-essentials/>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This is primarily a writing course designed to increase your level of comfort in expressing ideas in an advance college essay following an argumentative pattern of writing that entails analyzing rhetorical approaches. To that end, we will do a series of responsive writing assignments, an essay based on an Op-Ed piece and two research papers. The coursework will include readings from your online educational resource textbook as well as some grammar work as needed. There will be an essay final exam.

All essays are to be turned in on the due date. Late papers will be docked 10 pts per week. After two weeks, late work will not be accepted.

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.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The course grading is as follows:

Short Response Discussion Questions – 20 pts. each

Responsive Writing Assignments – 50 pts. each

Op-Ed Writing Assignment – 100 pts.

Research Paper No. 1– 200 pts. each

Research Paper No. 2 – 200 pts.

Essay Final – 300 pts.

Course Policies

- 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. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.

Specific rules for class:

- You must keep up with assignments to maintain your place in class. If you fall too far behind, you will be subject to a possible drop from the class. You must maintain communication with the professor, in particular, if you are having trouble, can’t get work done or need extra help.
- All assignments to be graded must be submitted via Canvas in order to be graded and will be subject to an online plagiarism check.
- Email your work to the professor’s email if you want help with an assignment before its due date.

Other Course Information

It is imperative that students maintain regular contact with me to help with their essays. Additionally, it is required that you attend each class session. We will be using that time for instruction, to workshop essays and questions you may have. We will also use that time to discuss the readings. Again, your attendance is required, but more than that, it will be beneficial toward helping you prepare your essays.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another’s work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds 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.
- 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 or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalogue 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.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

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

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic
Week 1	Syllabus & Introduction In-class writing
Week 2	Introduction to Writing Begin Reading Chapter 1 of Textbook Assign Responsive Essay 1 Run-Ons
Week 3	Continue with Chapter 1 Submit Responsive Essay 1 More on Run-Ons Start on Chapter 2
Week 4	Continue with Chapter 2 Get back Responsive Essay 1 for re-writing Assign Essay 2 Discuss Fragments
Week 5	Continue With Chapter 2 Submit Essay 2 Continue to Discuss Fragments Begin to discuss Chapter 3
Week 6	Continue with Chapter 3 Get back Essay 2 for re-writes Work on re-writes Re-write Essay 2 Start on Chapter 4 Continue with Fragments Assign Op-Ed piece
Week 7	Continue to discuss Chapter 4 Start on Chapter 5
Week 8	Continue with Chapter 5 Submit Op-Ed Essays Discuss Research Paper 1 Discuss sentence structure
Week 9	Continue to Work on Research Papers Get back Op-Ed pieces for re-writes In-class workshops Continue with sentence structure

Week 10	Research Papers 1 Due Discuss Research Paper 2 Continue with sentence structure
Week 11	Get back Research Papers 1 for re-writes Continue to work on Research Papers 2 Discuss Verb Tenses
Week 12	Continue to work on Research Paper 2 In-class workshop Continue to discuss verbs
Week 13	Final workshop on research papers 2 Finish with verbs
Week 14	Submit Research Papers 2
Week 15	Get back Research Papers 2 for re-writes
Week 16	Final Exam

*****Subject to change as per class needs*****