

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 topics. 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 argumentation, 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.

Texts

Aristotle. *On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse*. Trans. George A. Kennedy. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2007. Print. [ISBN #9780195305098]
 Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print. [ISBN #9781603290241]
 Shakespeare, William. *Julius Caesar: The Oxford Shakespeare*. Ed. Arthur Humphreys. Oxford World's Classics. New York: Oxford UP, 2009. Print. [ISBN #9780199536122]

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.

All writing projects must be completed and submitted as described in individual assignment sheets. Failure to bring a full and revised draft for workshop will result in a one-letter grade deduction for the essay. Late essays/projects will receive a one-letter grade deduction per day overdue. In-class essays and exams will only be rescheduled in the case of excused absence from the course. Out-of-class writing projects may be revised once for an improved grade (unless that grade was the result of an ethics violation); however, any accumulated late-submission or no-draft penalties will remain.

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 earned according to the following percentages:

Critical thinking essay – 15%
 Fallacy essay (in-class) – 10%
 Proposal paragraph and research citations – 5%
 Research annotations – 15%
 Sophistry essay – 25%
 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. *Any student who accumulates more than two consecutive unexcused absences will be dropped from the course.*

Ethics

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)

WEEK 1

June 24 Critical thinking excerpts
 June 25 Classical rhetoric background
 June 26 Aristotle's *On Rhetoric*
 June 27 Critical thinking essay workshop

WEEK 2

July 1 Critical thinking essay submission
 July 2 Aristotle's *On Rhetoric*
 July 3 Logical fallacies
 July 4 **HOLIDAY** (campus closed)

WEEK 3

July 8 Isocrates's "Against the Sophists"
 July 9 Isocrates's *Antidosis*
 July 10 Fallacy essay (in-class)
 July 11 Midterm exam

WEEK 4

July 15 Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*
 July 16 **Research proposal & works cited submission**
 July 17 Ideology & hegemony
 July 18 Annotated works cited submission

WEEK 5

July 22 Toulmin model
 July 23 Sophistry essay workshop
 July 24 Toulmin exercise
 July 25 Sophistry essay submission

WEEK 6

July 29 Midterm review, part 1
 July 30 Midterm review, part 2
 July 31 **Essay revision submission (optional)**
 Aug 1 **Final exam**