

Imperial Valley College – Fall 2019

English 201 CRN: 11542 Units: 3  
Advanced Composition:  
Critical Reasoning and Writing

Tuesday/Thursday  
1:00 – 2:25 p.m.  
Room 213  
August 19 – December 14

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Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs, 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

### Course Description

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)

### 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.
5. Student will identify formal and informal fallacies in language and thought.
6. Student will recognize and apply the effects of denotation and connotation; emotive language; and various figures of speech, especially metaphor, within argumentative prose.
7. Student will revise written drafts and edit appropriately for an academic audience, observing conventions of coherence, unity, purpose, grammar, mechanics, and documentation.

8. Students will write essays and research papers, mostly argumentative and analytical, composing a total of at least 6,000 words of formal writing.

### Student Learning Outcomes

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)

### Prerequisites

A "C" grade or higher or "Pass" in English 110 or English 101.

### Required Texts

*We Cast a Shadow*, Maurice Carlos Ruffin, 2019. A physical text is needed. Please refer to picture of novel cover at the bottom of syllabus.

*Writing Arguments, A Rhetoric with Readings*, Ramage, Bean, Johnson. Concise 7th Edition. Pearson, 2016

### Assignment Overview & Course Requirements

**Assignment #1:** Argumentative research paper. (Letter grade)

**Assignment #2:** Argumentative research paper. (Letter grade)

**Assignment #3:** Argumentative research paper. (Letter grade)

**Midterm:** An in-class essay responding to a prompt. (Quiz grade)

**Final:** An in-class essay responding to issues found in *We Cast A Shadow*. (Letter grade)

**Revision:** You will be allowed to revise one essay (assignments 1 – 3) at the end of the semester. If revised correctly, this essay will only be raised a single letter grade (or an extra 10 points), meaning a 65 would turn into a 75, etc. Revised essays must meet *all three* of the following conditions:

1. Your essay was turned in complete and on time.
2. You were in class for the peer review.
3. It must be your lowest scored essay.

**Annotated Bibliography:** List sources and describe specifically what part of each is relevant to your research paper and why. (Letter grade)

**Presentation:** Towards the due date of essays, students will give a 4-6 minute presentation on his or her research topic. Students who are researching similar ideas may perform the presentation as a small group. The presentation can come in many forms, from traditional methods we are familiar with, to more experimental ones, such as creating a music video, a dramatic play, a documentary/mocumentary, a display of artifacts, etc. Guidelines will be established and examples will be given beforehand. The audience will be your peers in this class. (Letter grade)

**In-class Writings/Group Work:** There will be a number of in-class writing assignments and group assignments that are required and integral to the class. It is your responsibly to come prepared with a notebook and writing instrument. Please be sure to complete and submit all in-class writing assignments at the end of class. These will be graded either pass or fail and impact your participation grade. These exercises cannot be made up. That being said, you are allowed to miss/fail three without any penalty to your grade.

**Gender-neutral Language:** In order to align ourselves with standard practices found in journalistic and academic writing, all assignments this semester will deploy the use of gender-neutral language. For example, instead of referring to someone as a *policeman*, *fireman*, or *stewardess*, we will refer to them in gender-neutral terms, such as *police officer*, *firefighter* and *flight attendant*. Instead of referring to something as being *man-made* or part of *mankind*, we will refer to it being *machine-made/synthetic/artificial*, or *people/human beings/humanity*.

**Canvas:** All readings and assignment rubrics will be uploaded to Canvas. All readings will be found under "files." All assignments (homework and essays) will be found under "pages."

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the semester there will be many ways to receive extra credit points. These points will *only* influence homework and quiz scores.

**Assignment Return Policy:** All essay assignments will be handed back a week before the next essay assignment is due. The midterm will be handed back a week before the final is due.

### Grading system

10%: Homework, Quizzes (unannounced), Midterm

10%: Participation (includes attendance, in-class writings, group work, rough drafts and peer presentation grades)

10%: Presentation  
10%: Bibliography  
15%: First essay assignment  
15%: Second essay assignment  
15%: Third essay assignment  
15%: Final

90 + = A    80 – 89 = B    70 – 79 = C  
60 – 69 = D    59 – = F

*Grades will not be rounded in any way*

## Policies

### **Assignments:**

- All essay assignments (including rough drafts) must follow MLA formatting and are due in hard copy (typed) at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated. All assignments received after will be marked late.
- Barring emergencies, late papers/homework will be marked down a letter grade for each day they are missing. Assignments that are turned in late will also be handed back to students later than usual. If you have unusual circumstances discuss them with me.
- All assignments must be completed satisfactorily. An assignment that does not follow instructions or is incomplete will receive zero credit.
- Emailed assignments are not accepted. Assignments randomly placed in my mailbox or taped to my office door without permission are also not accepted.

### **Attendance:**

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a 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. Also, it is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Your presence in class is necessary. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week (4) may be dropped without notice. Students who exceed this number will automatically receive a failing grade for their participation grade. If you have unusual circumstances discuss them with me.

- Absences, accompanied by the appropriate paperwork, attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

- Arriving late to class or leaving early. Students who arrive to class more than 20 minutes late or leave more than 20 minutes early will be marked as tardy. Every two instances will count as one absence. The majority of our quizzes occur at the start of class, so students who are consistently tardy will also find their quiz grade heavily affected. If you have unusual circumstances discuss them with me.

### **Classroom & Email Etiquette:**

- Our classrooms are protected spaces for open, thoughtful exchange and respectful communication. Disruptive behavior or offensive language will not be tolerated, and students responsible for behaving this way will be asked to leave the classroom.

- Students who are found to be chatting—including signing—amongst each other during lecture will lose participation points without warning. If the problem is consistent they will also be asked to leave the classroom.

- Please turn off all cell phones during class. Please do not text or go online during class. Students who are seen using their cell phones will lose participation points without warning. Also, if you find it necessary to use a laptop, you must sit near one of the front rows.

- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs.

- Children and others in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

- Email: Responses to email could take up to two days, or depending on the content not answered at all. This should in no way act as an excuse to turn in any work late. If you are absent, check the syllabus for due dates, Canvas for handouts and assignments, or ask your peers for lecture notes. Under no circumstances should students email assignments or inquire about their grade. If you are concerned about your overall grade please refer to the grading system breakdown.

### DSPS

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

If you have a documented disability or condition for which you require modifications,

adjustments, or accommodations, please inform me as soon as possible. If, due to your disability you find that you will not be able to meet the requirements of the course, inform me of that within a week of receiving this syllabus.

### Academic Integrity

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.

All work that you submit is expected to be your own original work, created specifically for this class. Cheating, plagiarism, and colluding will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in this type of conduct will receive a zero for that particular assignment. Depending on the severity of the incident they may be reported for further investigation and disciplinary action. 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.

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog.

### Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students.

- **Canvas.** The Canvas Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your Campus Map for the Math Lab; Reading, Writing & Language Labs; and the Study Skills Center.
- **Library Services.** Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library Department provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this endeavor. There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.
- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.
- **Veteran's Center.** The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.
- **The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS).** EOPS offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population. Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, [lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu](mailto:lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu).

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, [alexis.ayala@imperial.edu](mailto:alexis.ayala@imperial.edu).

- **Student Equity Program.** The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.

The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100

## **ANTICIPATED COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 August 20/22**

**Intro to course & course materials**

**Assignment #1 handout, examples and discussion**

Defining key concepts: Analysis & Stasis theory

(Readings\*: Syllabus

Week 1 Canvas readings located under "files"

Homework\*\*: Analysis ex.)

**\* Assigned readings will be quizzed and discussed the following class meeting unless otherwise specified.**

**\*\*All homework is due the following class meeting unless otherwise specified.**

Week 2 **August 27/29**

Writing with imagination

Citing sources

Selecting and integrating material

Summary, paraphrasing and direct quotation

(Readings: Week 2 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 1 – 2

*Writing Arguments* chapters 1, 2 and Appendix 2

Homework: Description ex.)

Week 3 **September 3/5**

Essay organization: Paragraphing

Summary, paraphrasing and direct quotation cont.

(Readings: Week 3 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 3 – 4

*Writing Arguments* chapter 3

Homework: Paragraphing ex.)

Week 4 **September 10/12**

Rhetorical appeals

Moves of revision

**Thursday: Due rough draft assignment #1 (Must meet page count)**

(Readings: Week 4 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 5 – 6

*Writing Arguments* chapters 5 – 6)

Week 5 **September 17/19**

**Tuesday: Due assignment #1**

**Tuesday: Group 1 presentations**

Rhetorical appeals continued

**Assignment #2 handout, examples and discussion**

(Readings: Week 5 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 7 – 8

*Writing Arguments* chapters 10 and 12

Homework: Claims of definition)

Week 6 **September 24/26**

Thesis statements

Toulmin logic

(Readings: Week 6 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 9 – 11

*Writing Arguments* chapter 4)

Week 7 **October 1/3**

Fallacies

(Readings: Week 7 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 12 – 15

*Writing Arguments* Appendix 1

Homework: Fallacy ex.)

Week 8 **October 8/10**

Citing sources review

**Thursday: Due rough draft assignment #2 (Must meet page count)**

(Readings: Week 8 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 16 – 18)

Week 9 **October 15/17**

**Tuesday: Due assignment #2**

**Tuesday: Group 2 presentations**

**Assignment #3 handout, examples and discussion**

(Readings: Week 9 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 19 – 21)

Week 10 **October 22/24**

Counterarguments

Rogerian Counterargument

(Readings: Week 10 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 22 – 24

*Writing Arguments* chapter 7)

Week 11 **October 29/31**

Writing about literature

**Thursday: Midterm**

(Readings: Week 11 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 25 – 28

*Writing Arguments* chapter 13)

Week 12 **November 5/7**

Types of claims: Value

(Readings: Week 12 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 29 – 32)

Week 13 **November 12/14**

Types of claims, cont.

(Readings: Week 13 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 33 – 36)

Week 14 **November 19/21**

Types of claims: Causal

(Readings: Week 14 Canvas readings located under “files”

*We Cast a Shadow* chapters 37 – 39

*Writing Arguments* chapter 12)

Week 15 **November 26/28**

**Thanksgiving recess: No classes**

(Readings: Complete *We Cast a Shadow*)

Week 16 **December 3/5**

**Tuesday: Due assignment #3**

**Tuesday: Group 3 presentations**

**Extra Credit review/Semester review**

(Readings: Week 16 Canvas readings located under “files”)

Week 16 December 10/12  
Tuesday: Optional extra credit  
Thursday: Final

Note: Instructor reserves the right to change any scheduled instruction depending on needs or speed of class

