



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2024	Instructor Name:	Robert Baukholt
Course Title & #:	Advanced Composition – English 201	Email:	robert.baukholt@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20482		
Classroom:	2726	Office #:	2792
Class Dates:	2/12/24 – 6/7/24	Office Hours:	ON-CAMPUS: M/W 9:45-10:45 am ONLINE: T/Th 11:00am – 12:00 pm
Class Days:	Mondays & Wednesdays	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6159
Class Times:	11:20 AM – 12:45 PM		
Units:	3	Class Format:	Live, on campus

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. Limitation on Enrollment: Course not open to students with a C or higher in English 204. (C-ID: ENGL 105, ENGL 115) (CSU/UC)”

So what will you learn in this class? The primary goal of this course is to further refine our ability to create argumentative/persuasive compositions, supported by logical appeals and research. These skills are not just applicable to humanities majors; they are skills that all of you will use throughout your undergraduate years and beyond. Ideas and the various means of communicating those ideas are the primary focus of this course, as they will be in the various content courses you take as you move forward in your college career. This class may get into more complex and philosophical issues than those covered in your previous writing courses. Feel free to practice creative thinking. Just try to keep in mind that the more complex or outlandish your ideas are, the more proof you will need to get people to understand and accept them.

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

ENGL 105 or
ENGL 110 or ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better.



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

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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required Texts

- A college dictionary
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (ISBN # 978-0307887443)
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy (ISBN # 978-0307387899)
- *Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil* by Paul Bloom (ISBN # 978-0307886859)
- An MLA guide that covers 9th edition

Recommended Text

- *MLA Handbook* (9th Edition) by The Modern Language Association (ISBN # 978-1603293518)



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. Since this is a three unit class (three credit hours), this means that you should expect to do about six hours of out of class work every week.

There are a number of assignments that will factor into your final grade:

Essays: Essay will make up the majority of the grade for this class. To receive credit on an essay, you must submit a hard copy of your paper directly to me in class and upload another copy of the same paper into Canvas' essay submission system (accessed through our English 201 Canvas course shell). I will show you how to do this before the first essay is due.

Journal: Journal entries are a common assignment for this class. Journals should consist of one-two page hand-written responses to the assigned question or questions. Your grade on this journal will be based solely on whether or not it appears you are making a good faith effort to answer the questions being asked. Journals are part of the "participation" grade.

Quizzes: These are easy! Free points! Just read or watch the material I assign and you will do fine here. Quizzes can be given at any time and on any day. They may not be made up, but I drop each student's lowest two quiz scores for the semester. If you arrive more than five minutes after a quiz has begun, you may not take it.

Midterm and Final: These exams will test your knowledge of the reading materials and concepts we will have covered in the class.

Discussions: Participation is very important in this class. You will be expected to contribute to class discussions on a regular basis.

Course Grading Policies and Grading Based on Measurable Course Objectives

Late Assignments: Assignments that are turned in late will be marked down ten percent for each class session they are late.

Essay Submission Rules: Essays must be submitted in class *and* online via Canvas. We will spend time in class learning about how to submit essays through Canvas. An essay that is turned in online but not in person (or vice versa) is not submitted, and will receive a zero or a late penalty (as per the "late assignments" policy).



Showing Me What You Have Learned: Because this class focuses on improving your writing skills, you will be learning a variety of writing strategies throughout the semester. You should always attempt to incorporate these strategies into your essays. A large portion of your grade depends on your ability to prove that you have learned something about the writing process. Show me what you have learned!

Typed Assignments: All take-home essay assignments and workshop responses should be typed. This includes all drafts and outlines. Handwritten workshop responses or essay drafts will not be accepted!

Short Essays: Final essay drafts will suffer a grade penalty of two points for every quarter page they are short.

Office Hours: I want you to pass my class. If you are having trouble, please seek me out during my office hours for help!

Essays are due at the beginning of class, and must be submitted by the students who wrote them.

Essay 1:	10%
Essay 2:	10%
Essay 3:	15%
Essay 4:	20%
Midterm:	10%
Quizzes:	20%
Participation	5%
Final:	10%
TOTAL	100%

A > 90% B > 80% C > 70% D > 60% F < 60%

Failing to complete assignments or not participating in required class activities will lower your grade significantly. If you are worried about your grade, I encourage you to talk to me or e-mail me throughout the semester.



Course Policies and Academic Honesty

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. 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.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off (or silenced) and put away during our live class meetings unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

A student using a personal electronic device during class may receive a point deduction from the "participation" grade category and may be asked to leave the class until they meet with the Dean of Student Affairs.

Food and Drink: Food and drinks are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.

Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

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

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others without citing the sources of those ideas. 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 correctly 'cite a source,' you must ask for help.

Cheating: 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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating 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 School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- plagiarism
- using A.I. to write, refine, and/or edit submitted works of writing
- copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- communicating test information with another person during an examination;
- allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment
- use of a commercial term paper service
- resubmitting work that you already submitted in another class

If you have any questions about how to quote or document sources, please feel free to ask me. In an average semester (four or five classes) I usually see between 5-10 students fail due to plagiarism. DON'T LET THIS BE YOU! If you aren't sure, ASK!

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.

Other Course Information

Class Atmosphere: The majority of our class activities will involve writing and discussion of assigned readings, issues related to essay topics, and other topics relevant to us. We may be discussing controversial issues; please remember to keep an open mind and to be respectful of the diverse backgrounds, opinions, and ideas of your peers in your contributions to these discussions.

We may also be watching reading and/or watching materials that some may find offensive or disturbing. These materials will serve as a framework for some of the topics we will be discussing in class. I will try to warn you about the content of visual media before we begin watching it, and will work to find alternative assignments for anyone who does not wish to view certain class materials.

Addendum Based Upon Previous Semesters' Experiences:

- Make sure to ALWAYS signal where your source materials begin.
- Make sure to ALWAYS signal where your source materials end.
- Make sure to ALWAYS use quotation marks when you relay source material word-for-word.
- Remember that you MUST cite all sources of information you use in your essay, even if you put them in your own words. If you don't, it's plagiarism.
- Don't begin or end a body paragraph with source material. Sources are there to support your argument. They should not become the argument.

- With very few exceptions (which I will outline, below) the ONLY sources you may use in this class are books and database articles. NO WEBSITES!

EXCEPTIONS: On Essay 1 you may use government, education, or reputable news website sources IF you have them approved by me prior to the due date of the essay. These sources will NOT count towards your required source total. On Essay 2 you will need to analyze one or more art/media artifacts to support your thesis. You will need to cite whatever media you choose to analyze, regardless of the form it takes.

- Essays require a purpose to exist. That purpose should be defined clearly in your thesis, and the rest of the essay should support it. Essays are not simply a series of interesting discussions that generally all connect to the same topic.
- Analysis is not the same as summary. Summary just tells us what happened, but analysis tries to determine “how” and “why.” It is a sometimes laborious and almost mathematical process that requires critical thinking. Please don’t mix-up these two ideas in your essays!
- Essays that are off topic will be given zeroes.
- Essays that are short will be docked two percentage points for every quarter-page they are short.

The topics we cover in this class are challenging, but many students find them to be more interesting than what we would normally cover in English 110/105 or below. Passion and enthusiasm for a topic are generally the keys to success for a strong essay in 201, rather than simply trying to adhere to a formula.

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

Because English 201 is a skills class, it is a common occurrence for a topic to take more or less time for us to cover than we originally planned. This schedule informs you of some of the lessons we will cover in the class and of the exact essay/test due dates, but beyond that it is subject to change at any time.

Please also note that there is a heavy reading component to this class that is not represented in the schedule. The reading assignments and due dates will be given in class and through our Canvas course shell. I don't assign these through the schedule because many of them are assigned in response to topics that students generate during the course of the class.

Quizzes are unannounced but easy to predict. They can be given at any time, which is why they are not represented in the schedule.

Week 1:

Monday, February 12th – Review of Class Policies. Introductions.

Wednesday, February 14th – Review Session 1: Prewriting. Review Session 2: Finding a Thesis and Basic Essay Structure. Assign Essay 1.

Week 2:

Monday, February 19th – Holiday. No Class!

Wednesday, February 21st – Review Session 2, continued (if necessary). Review Session 3: Addressing Counter Arguments.

Week 3:

Monday, February 26th – Review Session 4: Citations and Acceptable Uses of Source Material. Review Session 5: Learning to find books and to use the databases.

Wednesday, February 28th – Argument and Tone. How to be Convincing. Begin Essay 2 Film.

Week 4:

Monday, March 4th – Continue Essay 2 Film. Essay 1 is Due!

Wednesday, March 6th - Artistic works as social action. Genre theory. Artistic depictions of history. Assign Essay 2.

Week 5:

Monday, March 11th – Discuss the film and the assignment. Choosing Essay 2 Topics. Topic Exploration.

Wednesday, March 13th – Creating Essay 2 Thesis Statements. Strategies for Approaching the Argument.

Week 6:

Monday, March 18th – Library Research day for Essay 2.

Wednesday, March 20th – Logical Fallacies

Week 7:

Monday, March 25th – Logical Fallacies, continued.

Wednesday, March 27th – Understanding “The Sleeper Curve.” Does Media Make Us Smarter?

Spring Break: No Classes From Monday, April 1st to Saturday, April 6th.

Week 8:

Monday, April 8th – Essay 2 is due! Analyzing a text to support a thesis. How does media effect our culture and our biology? Assign Essay 3

Wednesday, April 10th – Midterm Exam.

Week 9:

Monday, April 15th – Choosing a text to analyze. Choosing points of analysis. Constructing a viable thesis. Essay 3 Media Review.

Wednesday, April 17th – Essay 3 Thesis Statements. Essay 3 Media Review, continued.

Week 10:

Monday, April 22nd – Library research day for essay 3.

Wednesday, April 24th – Discussion of the anti-hero and how environment influences ethics/morality. *Dexter. Breaking Bad. The Walking Dead.*

Week 11:

Monday, April 29th – Defining evil: Historical and cultural perspectives. Final Essay 3 Support.

Wednesday, May 1st –The biology of evil. Nature vs. nurture. Motivation and Free Will. Assign readings and videos on “evil.” Essay 3 is due! Assign Essay 4.

Week 12:

Monday, May 6th – Essay 4 Film.

Wednesday, May 8th – Essay 4 Film, continued, and discussion.

Week 13:

Monday, May 13th – Library research day for essay 4.

Wednesday, May 15th – Good and evil as labels of control. Zero-tolerance policies. Self-defense.

Week 14:

Monday, May 20th – Who is the most evil? Fictional characters on trial.

Wednesday, May 21st – Final Essay 4 Assistance.

Week 15:

Monday, May 27th – Holiday! No Class!

Wednesday, May 29th – Essay 4 Is Due! Final Exam Review.

Week 16:

Tuesday, June 3rd – Final Exam!



Thursday, June 5th – Final Meeting. Have a great summer break!

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****