

### Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2025	Professor Name:	Scott Simpson
Course Title:	Course Title: ENGL 201 Advanced Composition	Preferred way to contact-- Email:	scott.simpson@imperial.edu
CRNs #:	15012 & 15151	Units:	3
(Classroom)  Class Format/ Modality: Online	<b>Online - asynchronous</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the weekly activity schedules posted on Canvas</li> <li>No real-time instruction                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoom is not used.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This class does not meet in a classroom. It's 100% online.</li> </ul>	Office #:	There are no meetings in the office this term. <u>Email</u> instructor in <u>Canvas</u> anytime.
Class Dates:	January 2 to February 3	Office Hours:	During Winter & Summer terms, there are no office hours. Just contact the instructor via email anytime inside Canvas.
Class Days:	Online - asynchronous	Office Phone #	(760) 355-6164 • However, email within Canvas is a much more efficient way to reach the instructor.
Class Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the weekly activity schedules posted on Canvas</li> <li>No real-time instruction</li> <li>Zoom is not used.</li> </ul>	Emergency Contact:	<p><b>IVC Student Resources</b>  <a href="https://imperial.instructure.com/courses/15311/pages/ivc-student-resources">https://imperial.instructure.com/courses/15311/pages/ivc-student-resources</a>                      • • • • • • • • • •</p> <p><b>Canvas Help</b>  <a href="https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas/ct-p/canvas">https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas/ct-p/canvas</a>                      • • • • • • • • • •</p> <p>If there is an emergency that affects completion of assignments, keep the instructor informed on a timely basis.</p>

### 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)

### 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

### MEASURABLE COURSE OBJECTIVES AND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GRADE OF "C":

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

**1) Title of Book:** Asking the Right Questions-- A Guide to Critical Thinking (12th edition)

Be sure to purchase the correct edition, the **12th** !

**Authors:** M. Neil Browne and Stuart M. Keeley ISBN-13: 9780134425665

To get this book now, click on the link below or you can get it from the IVC Bookstore:

<https://www.pearson.com/store/p/asking-the-right-questions-a-guide-to-critical-thinking-rental-edition-/P100001425252?viewAll=true>

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### Online Free MLA Resource

Our essays require using the MLA standard for citing sources.

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html)

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course is focused on engaging with the language and concepts of critical thinking. Our critical thinking textbook will introduce you to the traditional concepts of critical thinking, and the writing activities will provide practice with those concepts. We will also write short critiques of argument essays, and you will write your own argument essay.

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. This means to expect on average **six hours of homework per week** for this 3-unit course.

## Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grade Scale by %    A: 90 - 100    B: 80 - 89    C: 70 - 79    D: 60 - 69    F: 0 - 59

*Note: You never have to add up points; Canvas keeps tracks of all points for you automatically.*

Grading rubrics for major assignments like essays are posted on Canvas.

**Deadlines and late work:** Check upcoming deadlines regularly. All deadlines are posted there. A **short** grace period of one day can be requested if I am contacted in advance of the due date with a reasonable explanation for the request. Expect any late work to be docked points. Don't expect work completed more than two days late to be awarded any points. If not contacted in advance of the due date about work arriving late, don't expect the assignment to be accepted. In general, don't expect late work to be accepted.

- There are no "do-overs" for any reason on any assignment. Everyone gets one shot to complete each assignment. We prepare in stages for each assignment, so there is absolutely no reason to hand in any work that is far off target.
- Also note that the instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero to any previous class assignments if the quality of writing is not similar to the quality of writing shown in the final exam.

Special note for grading and staying enrolled in the course over the first two weeks:

Any form of cheating will not only result in a grade of zero for the assignment, but you will be dropped from the course. This includes any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to entering a meaningless discussion response in order to see classmate's responses and/or using AI (Chat GPT and similar).

Note: If the major writing assignments are **not** handed in, there will be **NO** opportunity to pass the course. Period. These are not optional assignments, regardless of the number of points you will have accumulated or what Canvas shows your grade to be.

- Note that **plagiarism** results in a **zero** for any assignment and could lead to discipline by the college which could not only mean **dismissal** from the class but also **permanent expulsion** from IVC. A zero on a major assignment also makes it **impossible** to pass the course. Furthermore, plagiarizing a second time is an absolute guarantee of not passing the course, regardless of the overall grade. Yes, it's easy to cut and paste text from the internet. You should be very aware that due to technology, **detecting plagiarism is even easier for your instructors.** We don't even have to look. The system alerts us. If there is any plagiarism, I give you a 100% guarantee that this technology shall find it, whether it's from text on any page on the internet or from an assignment submitted by any student taking a course any year for any class at any junior high school, high school, college or university on Earth. Yes, most students would never plagiarize. But that person who might try should know that being caught is a guarantee and major consequences will definitely be suffered.

(Note: If you are retaking this course, **avoid self-plagiarism**; that is, you will need to within reason hand in a substantially different essay even though it may be on the same topic as before. Any essay that is substantially the same as the student's own previous work will be graded zero.)

To summarize:

- There are no "do-overs" for any reason on any assignment.

- Everyone gets one shot to complete each assignment.
- Plagiarism guarantees being caught and failing the course.
- The vast majority of students never plagiarize and sincerely seek to improve their skills.

• Also note that the instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero to any assignments, even previously graded assignments, if the quality of writing varies greatly in style across the assignments.

## 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.

If artificial intelligence (AI), like Chat GPT, is used in any way on any assignment, it will also easily be detected, and the grade will be zero for the assignment. Any use of AI will be treated as if it were plagiarism. The same policy for plagiarism seen above also applies for any use of AI in submitted assignments.

## 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.

## Course Policies

**Major Writing Assignments** • approximately 650 points total • Canvas automatically calculates your grade for you.

1. (100 points) Write a *New York Times* style opinion essay. (The topic will be provided.)
2. (150 - 200 points each) Short Essay Critiques (based on SDSU's phased-out Writing Placement Assessment-- WPA) • two of these
3. (200 points) Using Critical Thinking Concepts to Make Sense of Opposing Views

**Other Assignments** • approximately 272 points total

4. (points vary/approximately 140 points in total) **Textbook chapter quizzes** ("Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking" 12th edition) • five of these covering all thirteen chapters
5. (points vary/approximately 132 points in total) Additional readings/writings

Note: If any writing assignment is missing:  
there will be **NO** opportunity to pass the course. Period.  
These are not optional assignments, regardless of the number of points  
you will have accumulated or what Canvas shows your final grade to be.

If you are missing any of those assignments, you will not pass this course.

• **Deadlines and late work:** Be aware of deadlines. A **short** grace period of up to a day or two for essays, and possibly some other assignments, might be granted if I am contacted in advance of the due date with a reasonable explanation for the request. Expect ANY late work to be docked points. Don't expect work completed more than a few days late to be accepted. Keep in mind you can start almost any assignment much earlier than the due date.

*Again, if artificial intelligence (AI), like Chat GPT, is used in any way on any assignment, it will also easily be detected, and the grade will be zero for the assignment. Any use of AI will be treated as if it were plagiarism. The same policy for plagiarism seen above also applies for any use of AI in submitted assignments. Additionally, anyone who enables other to cheat will also get a zero for the first assignment and a final grade of F for any further cases.*

To summarize:

- There are no "do-overs" for any reason on any assignment.
  - Everyone gets one shot to complete each assignment.
- Plagiarism/AI use/enabling others to cheat **guarantee** being caught and failing the course.
- Of course, the vast majority of students never plagiarize, know how supremely foolish it is to use AI, and sincerely seek to improve their skills.

## Advice on Grades • Success in Class

Absolutely do your utmost to **COMPLETE every assignment**. Hand in ALL the essays. Never consider doing otherwise. And do your best to complete ALL of the other assignments as (1) those assignments **prepare** you to succeed in the weightier assignments and (2) all those little points that may not seem so much at first **definitely add up to a lot of points** by the semester's/term's end !

## More 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.
- Furthermore, if two consecutive assignments are not handed in on a timely basis, that student can expect to 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.
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### 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 a written academic assignment that demonstrates substantial engagement with preparatory materials

- Student submission of an exam the results of which demonstrates substantial engagement with preparatory materials
- Student participation in an instructor-led Zoom conference
- A substantive posting by the student in an online discussion demonstrating engagement with preparatory materials

**Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance. Complete all assignments with care and attention and on time or expect to be dropped from the course.**

## 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/AI use 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 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.

### How do I show academic honesty and integrity in an online "classroom"?

- KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS CONFIDENTIAL.
  - o You have a unique password to access online software like Canvas. Never allow someone else to log-in to your account.
- COMPLETE YOUR OWN COURSEWORK.
  - o When you register for an online class and log-in to Canvas, you do so with the understanding that you will produce your own work, take your own exams, and will do so without the assistance of others (unless directed by the instructor).

### Examples of Academic Dishonesty that can occur in an online environment:

- Copying from others on a quiz, test, examination, or assignment;
- Writing a discussion post without substance (like "Hello" or a blank post) with the intent to see classmates' posts/work;

- Allowing someone else to copy or be influenced by your answers on a quiz, test, exam, or assignment; this includes uploading course work to a website;
- Having someone else take an exam or quiz for you;
- Allowing another student to paraphrase your work without attribution to you;
- Paraphrasing another student's work without attribution;
- Submitting an essay with one or more paragraphs mostly or wholly generated by AI;
- Conferring with others during a test or quiz (if the instructor didn't explicitly say it was a group project, then he/she expects you to do the work without conferring with others);
- Buying or using a term paper or research paper from an internet source or other company or taking any work of another, even with permission, and presenting the work as your own;
- Excessive revising or editing by others that substantially alters your final work;
- Sharing information that allows other students an advantage on an exam (such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class);
- Taking and using the words, work, or ideas of others and presenting any of these as your own work is plagiarism. This applies to all work generated by another, whether it be oral, written, or artistic work. Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional.
- The first instance of plagiarism or other type of academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade for that assignment. A second instance will result in a grade of "F" in the course and being reported to the college. If the plagiarism or another type of academic honesty is discovered after the course is complete, the instructor reserves the right to change the student's final grade at any future time.

• *Reminder: Note that **plagiarism or AI use** results in a **zero** for any assignment and could lead to discipline by the college which could not only mean **dismissal** from the class but also **permanent expulsion** from the college. A zero especially on a major assignment also makes it virtually **impossible** to pass the course. Yes, it's easy to cut and paste text from the internet. You should be very aware that due to technology, **detecting plagiarism is even easier for us**. We don't have to even look. The system alerts us. It highlights the copied text, even if some words have been changed. It shows us the URL on the web or the student paper it was copied from-- instantly! If there is any plagiarism, I give you a 100% guarantee that this technology shall find it, whether it's from text on any page on the internet or another student's paper. **Of course** there are no do-overs for a plagiarized assignment. **Of course-- most students would never plagiarize**. But that one or two who might I guarantee will very easily be caught with zero effort on my part and will suffer consequences.*

## Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at [finaid@imperial.edu](mailto:finaid@imperial.edu).

## 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 schedule **on Canvas** is always up to date once the course starts. The best place to access the class schedule is on Canvas. This is available starting on the first day of class. Look for the weekly activity schedule at the start of each week.

**\*\*\*Tentative, subject to change without prior notice\*\*\***