



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2026	Instructor Name:	Amy Loper
Course Title & #:	ENG C1001 Critical Thinking and Writing	Email:	amy.loper@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15296	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	ONLINE	Office #:	2781
Class Dates:	ONLINE	Office Hours:	Contact through Canvas Inbox
Class Days:	ONLINE (asynchronous)	Office Phone #:	Contact through Canvas Inbox
Class Times:	ONLINE (asynchronous)	Emergency Contact:	English Dept. Secretary 760-355-6224 760-355-6337
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	ONLINE

Course Description

In this course, students receive instruction in critical thinking for purposes of constructing, valuating, and composing arguments in a variety of rhetorical forms, using primarily non-fiction texts, refining writing skills and research strategies developed in ENGL C1000 College Reading and Writing (C-ID ENGL 100) or similar first-year college writing course. (Formerly ENGL 201)(C-ID: ENGL 105) (CSU/UC) Additional Description Information: Limitation on Enrollment: Course not open to students with a "C" or higher in English 204.

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

PREREQUISITES: - College-level composition (ENGL C1000/ENGL C1000H/ENGL C1000E/C-ID ENGL 100) or equivalent, including, ENGL 105 or ENGL C1000 or ESL 108 - 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. Define, recognize, and utilize forms of critical reasoning, including deductive and inductive reasoning, in a variety of rhetorical contexts.
2. Reflect critically on one's own thought processes to identify and avoid cognitive biases and common fallacies of language and thought.
3. Employ critical reading and research strategies to locate and evaluate complex texts representative of diverse experiences, perspectives, and forms of authority.
4. Evaluate and document evidence to construct arguments in a variety of rhetorical situations, distinguishing knowledge from belief and fact from judgment.
5. Draft written arguments to respond appropriately to texts, with attention to intended audience, purpose, and social context, and revise for clarity, cogency, persuasiveness, and soundness.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

For this class, we will be using freely available (OER) sources. We will use information from each of these collections (section or chapter will be clearly linked in Canvas modules):

[Lumen Learning: English Composition I](#)

[Composition II](#) < This is our primary text.

We will be using multiple essays, articles, and films which are available online as well as “textbook” information from *Lumen Learning*. All relevant links will be provided within the Modules.

There is no textbook to purchase, but a dictionary and MLA guidebook are recommended (we will discuss where to find quality versions of this information online as well).

You will need to acquire a banned or challenged novel or your choice, but free resources will be provided in a future module.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Assignments:



- Two researched argumentative essays (20 points each)
 - Essays will consist of 7-10 pages, 4 sources minimum (at least two should be from an academic database)
 - MLA formatting and a properly documented Works Cited page.
- 6+ discussion board “mini essays” or exercises (10 points each)
 - Discussion posts should be 400-500 word “mini essay” on a given topic unless otherwise instructed. At least two thoughtful responses on another student’s post are required as well. Some posts will require research.
- “Banned” Book Project with Presentation 30 points)
 - Banned Book project will include research, a short analysis essay, and presentation.
- 4+ quizzes/surveys (10 points each)
 - Quizzes/Surveys will cover readings, topics, or other lecture material from class. These are not posted on the schedule. Quizzes are usually on Canvas and may be multiple choice or short essay. Expect at least four but there may be more.
- Final Exam will consist of a timed argumentative essay composed and submitted through the Canvas quiz platform.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

100-90% - A

89-80% - B

79-70% - C

69-60% - D

59-0% - F



Essays and the Banned Book report will have a three day “grace period.” Essays are accepted late during this period with a points penalty.

No other late work will be accepted! Discussion boards, quizzes, and any other minor assignments must be turned in by the due date and time. These assignments will not be reopened except in extraordinary circumstances.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism (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.

Essays or other writing with a 50% or higher score of AI probability may receive a zero (0) for that assignment. Writing that demonstrates the markers and/or signs of AI may be questioned and require individual discussion with me, and/or an in-person writing sample.

For essays that include research, fake or hallucinated sources will receive an automatic zero (0) for that assignment.

Essays or other assignments that lose points due to AI use cannot be made-up or replaced

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. I do not drop students after the first week!

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.

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 **DSPPS**, contact them for additional assistance. We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Other Course Information

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is to take and present 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 correctly 'cite a source', 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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating or 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.



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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: (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) use of a commercial term paper service

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

Modules Usually Open on Sundays

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

Week	Objectives	Assignments
Week 1 (January 4-11) Unit 0 Unit 1	Orientation, introductions, syllabus, Critical thinking, critical reading	First week's attendance, and writing experience survey Critical thinking short video and discussion response, critical reading film and discussion response.
Week 2 (January 7-11) Unit 2	MLA information, basics of the argument essay, and definition Introduction to the Banned Book Project	First essay assigned, topic approval, and definition discussion board Begin choosing a book to read and research
Unit 3 (January 11-18)	Visual Arguments and Logical Fallacies	Graphic Images discussion, short reading and response, "Love is a Fallacy", Banned Book Project



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		Assigned.
Unit 4 (January 18-25)	Rogerian Argument, Rhetorical Argument of Non-traditional Texts,	VP Debate and discussion board response, Essay #2 assigned, Non-traditional text analysis discussion board
Unit 5 (Feb 1-Feb 4)	Literary Criticism and the Ideal Society and The Ethics of AI in Writing, Final Exam	Final exam review, and end of semester information