**English 3 – 53860 – Critical Reading and Writing** Spring 2020

Ryan LaSalle – MW 12:30-1:45 pm – POR 5

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Office: Annex 2 Office hours: TBA

Final: Monday, May 18, 12-1:50 Final drop date: Friday, March 13

**On Critical Reading/Writing...**

This class is about *thinking*. Not the everyday routine thinking that travels our minds at a dull pace, but rather, the active vital critical thinking that leads to complexity, growth, and understanding. My assumption about critical thinking/writing is that most students do not like to write, or for that matter, think beyond the routine ruts or habits of thought they have already established. This class aims to push students out of their routine thinking patterns in the hope of jumping the long driven channels, cresting self made obstacles, and turning the wheel of their minds to objectively analyze information, issues, and arguments.

As a class and as individuals, we will embark on projects that will pose provocative and intellectually demanding questions. Though answered simply by most, we will instead look behind the surface to better understand the content at hand. We will work with ideas and arguments presented by others in order to comprehend and dissect them. We will learn to identify different argument techniques, errors in reasoning, and forms of logic. Thinking critically will eventually lead us to form our own ideas and construct our own arguments in essay form.

**The Plan: (typical class period)**

1. Class business, general discussion.

2. In class lecture/reading/discussion/writing. Assignments will be from prompts that will be provided.

3. Out of class reading/writing. Usually tied to the in class assignment.

**The things we’ll carry:** \*notebook \*writing instrument

# Textbook: Current Issues and Enduring Questions (12th edition) by Sylvan Barnet, Hugo Bedau, and John O’Hara

**Policies:** 2 absences allowed without penalty. Subsequent absences result in a loss of participation points. Absences totaling more than two weeks (four classes) within the first 9 weeks of class may cause the student to be dropped from the class. Late work will be accepted for partial credit with instructor’s approval (5% deduction for each class day late). Note: this does not apply to the final project and its components (no late bibliographies, rough drafts, or final papers allowed). Tardiness should be avoided but in the rare event of coming to class late, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure the roll has been updated. In the event of plagiarism (see Schedule of Courses for more information) the student will fail the assignment or the class at the discretion of the instructor (depending on the nature and severity of the offense).

**Grading:** Grading will be based on a point system.

90%A 80%B 70%C 60%D 50%F (of total points available in class)

# of assign. Description pts.

**(3) 1. Main papers 10**

**(1) 2. one synthesis/research main paper (MLA) 20**

**w/annotated bibliography 10**

**and rough draft 10**

**(1-2) 3.** **Light Papers 5**

**4. Homework Exercises 1**

**5. Participation**  **5**

\*instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus as deemed necessary or appropriate.

\*Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.