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REEDLEY COLLEGE
ENGLISH 3: ESSAY AND ARGUMENT—CRITICAL READING AND WRITING
FALL 1998
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Instructor: Gary Enns
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Required Text Barnet and Bedau. *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*. Fourth edition. St. Martin's Press, 1996.

Purpose To study and practice skills in argumentation, critical reading, thinking, and writing.

Academic Honesty Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's ideas and/or words. Plagiarism involves everything from buying or borrowing an essay to improper documentation. Penalties for plagiarism include expulsion from the college.

Policies and Procedures

Papers I require typed papers, double-spaced, on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch sheets of paper. Margins should be one inch. Staple the pages of each paper in the upper left corner before bringing to class. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. The due date is final. I will not accept late papers, so if you are absent for any reason, be sure to hand the paper in early or make preparations with a friend to hand your paper in for you.

Class Presentation You will give a formal presentation critically analyzing two essays on an issue. A thorough, typed outline of your presentation is required.

Quizzes and Reading Responses Frequently I will give unannounced quizzes and assign responses based on the readings assigned.

Midterm and Final Examinations These tests may involve a variety of questions, from matching and True/False to short answer and essay questions.

Attendance and Class Participation Attendance is vital. Six or more unexcused absences will result in an F for the course. If you come to class after roll is taken, you will be counted tardy. Each tardy counts as one half of one absence. **Note: Any work missed due to an absence may not be made up**, with the exception of work missed due to illness or college business. In these situations, an official (meaning appropriate letterhead and signature) department or doctor's note is required, and the work must be made up within the next week.

Conferences I encourage you to make appointments to see me before or after class. I am happy to help with difficult material, ideas for papers and presentations, early drafts, or anything else involving your work.

Grades

Class Participation.....	5%
Paper 1.....	10%
Paper 2.....	10%
Paper 3.....	20%
Class Presentation.....	15%
Midterm Examination	10%
Final Examination.....	10%
Quizzes and Reading Responses.....	20%

Tentative Course Plan

Note: All works will be discussed on the days they are listed; please read them carefully, at least once, before that class period.

SUMMARY

WEEK 1 (AUGUST 18-20)

T Personal introductions; introduction to critical thinking.

R Critical Thinking pp. 3-14; Critical Reading: Getting Started pp. 15-27 & pp. 31-33 (close attention to Jacoby's and Bok's articles); group summaries; discuss Paper 1.

WEEK 2 (AUGUST 25-27)

T Koch's "Death and Justice" pp. 321-326; Bruck's "The Death Penalty" pp. 326-331; individual summaries; discuss paper format.

R * **Writing Workshop: bring two copies of your typed rough draft.**

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

WEEK 3 (SEPTEMBER 1-3)

T * **Paper 1: Summary due.**

R Kramer's "Juvenile Justice is Delinquent" pp. 91-95; *Fallacies* pp. 774-784.

WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 8-10)

T Swift's "A Modest Proposal" pp. 111-118.

R Plato's "The Myth of the Cave" pp. 118-125; discuss midterm examination.

WEEK 5 (SEPTEMBER 15-17)

T * **Writing Workshop: bring two copies of your typed rough draft.**

R * **Paper 2: Critical Analysis due.**

ANALYZING A DEBATE

WEEK 6 (SEPTEMBER 22-24)

T * **Midterm Examination.**

R Critical Reading: Getting Deeper Into Arguments pp. 34-62 (close attention to Stoddard's and Takaki's essays).

WEEK 7 (SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1)

T Critical Writing: Writing an Analysis of an Argument pp. 73-86; Pollitt's "It Takes Two" pp. 95-98; discuss Paper 2: Critical Analysis.

RA *Checklist for Analyzing a Debate* pp. 211-212; *Affirmative Action: Is It Fair?* pp. 223-232.

WEEK 8 (OCTOBER 6-8)

T *Animal Rights* pp. 233-256.

R *Gun Control: Would It Really Help?* pp. 275-282.

WEEK 9 (OCTOBER 13-15)

T Grammar workshop.

R Grammar workshop.

WEEK 10 (OCTOBER 20-22)

T * **Class Presentations.**

R * **Class Presentations.**