

**English 3H** Essay and Argument: Critical Reading and Writing Honors Fall 98  
Prerequisite: C or better in English 1AH; fulfills critical thinking requirement

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Office hours: M 10-11, F 9-11, and by appointment

Required: Barnet and Bedau Current Issues and Enduring Questions  
a separate spiral notebook for this class (to be with you always)  
ready access to a good college dictionary  
you'll probably want your English 1A stylebook

#### Course Description:

**The goal** of this course is to sharpen your critical reading, writing, and thinking skills *beyond* the level achieved in English 1A. We will write and read essays on "current issues and enduring questions" of various styles and purposes for various audiences, focusing on logical reasoning (both inductive and deductive), analysis, and argumentation, and we will discuss them as a class or in groups in our unending search for the truth. Diverse viewpoints are encouraged and respected, especially those which are well-substantiated. Be prepared to read and write, both in and out of class, and to share your writing and ideas with your fellow students. As an honors course we will be able to cover more complex material and rely more on a seminar format for discussion. You will possibly do more presentation than students in 3H, but the number of assignments will remain the same.

#### Course Requirements:

**Attendance:** I will take roll and you will date your notebook each class day. I may drop you after the equivalent of two weeks worth of classes. Much of the writing and some of the reading will take place in class, as well as essential groupwork and spontaneous learning opportunities, so it behooves you to attend. Rather than leave me wondering, contact me if you will have an unavoidable absence; it is your responsibility to come to class prepared, even after absences. If you must miss class, keep up in your notebook and in your reading; date everything. It is your responsibility to get papers to me or contact me if you are unable to attend; **absence is not an excuse for handing papers in late.**

**Grading:** For evaluating your work, I use the attached grading standard and then specific rubrics for most assignments, incorporating attention to content (what you say), style (how you say it), and mechanics (including grammar and MLA documentation, both of which you **did** master in 1A). If you need help with any of these, get it from me during office hours, from the tutorial center, or from any other reliable source you know. Proofread. Allow yourself time. Talk to me.

It is particularly wise to be prepared with typed completed drafts on rough draft days because, not only will your final product benefit from the input and your most thorough revision, but, without it (absences included), you can expect your final grade to be lowered. Final drafts on essays will be accepted late in cases of dire emergency **only if** you have had a complete draft on draft day. A late paper may be returned with

fewer comments and may not be revised. On the other hand, if you have produced a complete typed draft on draft day, and if you have handed in the final draft on time, and have met with me to devise a revision plan, the paper may be revised for a new grade.

**Assignments:**

Leading up to a synthesis paper by the end of the term, you will write summaries, deductive arguments, and critical analyses. One of your presentations may be oral. All papers are typed, double-spaced, with all drafts dated and attached.

week 3	summary presentation
week 4	deductive essay before research no class Monday - Labor Day
week 5	deductive essay, research added
week 6	no class Friday - Lencioni at meeting
week 7	first critical analysis due Monday
week 8	comparative critical analysis
week 9	drop date Friday 10/16
week 10	critical analysis presentation
week 12	VOTE!
week 14	4 critical analyses on synthesis topic (one graded)
week 15	synthesis due (Thanksgiving week)
week 17,18	proposal

I'll average the grades through week 6 for your midterm grade report. Each grade is weighted equally (except the synthesis which is double), so averaging your own grade at any time is easy. Skipping a major paper can slaughter your grade (1/10th); skipping the synthesis means an automatic D or less. Plagiarism is presenting any part of anyone else's work as your own. It's against the law and will result in a grade of F in the class. Remember: because we use typed drafts for classwork and because I know they are essential for your growth, your paper grade will be lowered if you do not have, are absent and haven't handed it in ahead of time (so we can still use it for classwork), or if it is not typed, finished, or a serious attempt at the assignment.

**Class participation:**

I expect you to participate in class with respect and accuracy. You may also communicate with me and with others by writing down your ideas and comments in your notebook. There will be times that we will exchange notebooks.

Your participation in class discussion is not only what makes this class fun, but it is essential to your whole critical thinking experience. We are a diverse group of individuals, each with valid, and challengeable, opinions. This class needs to be a safe for for the generation, consideration, and expression of ideas. If you ever feel this is not the case (even a little bit), tell me or write what is not working in your notebook (fold that page down--a folded page means "confidential") and I will respond.