

ENGLISH 3 ESSAY AND ARGUMENT: CRITICAL READING AND THINKING

Fall 1999 Sat 9:00 - 11:50 A.M./BUS 42

Instructor: Laurie Tobenkin, MA

Message Phone: (559) 324-6450

Required Text:

Current Issues and Enduring Questions, 5th Ed. Barnet and Bedau

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 focused on logical reasoning, critical analysis, argument and synthesis of arguments. Diverse viewpoints are encouraged, particularly if they are well substantiated. Be prepared to read and write, both in and out of class, and to share your ideas and writing with the class.

Attendance: Attendance is required in this class. Since we meet only once weekly, a student may be dropped from this class after three or more absences. Much of the writing and some of the reading will take place in class, as well as essential groupwork and paper preparation, so you will need to be here. If you have an unavoidable absence, it will be your responsibility to contact me or one of your classmates to get any assignments given out on that date. You will be expected to turn in any assignments and complete the readings due by the next meeting. Papers are due on their assigned date whether or not you are able to attend class; they may be turned in at the main office to be held for me. If an emergency or illness occurs, you are welcome to call me prior to class to arrange an excused absence.

Tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful to the class. I will discuss this with students individually if a pattern develops. Continuing tardiness may cause you to be considered absent for that session.

Sign-In Sheet:

I will circulate a sign-in sheet at the beginning of every class. Make sure you sign it -- this will be our official record of your attendance. If you must be late to class, make sure you sign in before leaving at the end of class.

Assignments:

There will be approximately 3 short papers and one final paper which will include secondary sources (10 - 15 pages). Each paper will be brought in for workshop with your fellow students. You must bring in the typed draft of your paper, along with copies, on workshop day for discussion with your group. Unless you have made a prior arrangement with me, the final letter grade for any paper will be dropped by a letter grade if it is late to workshop. This is to insure that all papers receive group comments, and that workshop discussions are productive. After your paper is returned with my comments, you will have the opportunity to revise it once for a higher score (if desired). All papers must be typed, double-spaced, and have earlier drafts dated and attached. Late homework will not be accepted. Late papers will not be accepted, unless by prior arrangement.

Along with the papers, there will be quizzes, a group oral presentation and a final.

drop date

Grading:

Grading will be as follows:

3 short papers (10 points each)	30
Final paper	30
Oral Presentation	10
Final	10
Participation (including attendance, homework, quizzes,)	20
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Tentative Schedule (Due dates may be changed depending on our progress. You will be given a more detailed schedule as the semester unfolds).

8/21	Introductions
8/28	
9/4	Workshop Paper #1
9/11	
9/18	
9/25	Workshop Paper #2
10/2	
10/9	
10/16	Workshop Paper #3
10/23	Outline/Final Paper
10/30	
11/6	Oral Arguments
11/13	Workshop/Final Paper
11/20	
11/27	No Class -- Happy Thanksgiving!!
12/4	Final Paper due.
12/11	In-class Final