

English 3 Essay and Argument: Critical Reading and Writing Fall 99
Prerequisite: C or better in English 1A; fulfills critical thinking requirement

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Required: Barnet and Bedau Current Issues and Enduring Questions
 your wits, your open mind

Recommended: a separate spiral notebook for this class
 ready access to a good college dictionary
 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.

Course Requirements:

Attendance: I will take roll and 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; in any case, it is your responsibility to come to class prepared, even after absences. If you must miss class, keep up in your reading. 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.** I don't accept late papers.

Grading: For evaluating your work, I use the attached general 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 I must assume you mastered in 1A). If you need help with any of these, get it from me during office hours (most successful students have stopped in at least once), 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, not only because your final product will benefit from the input and your most thorough revision, but also because, without it (absences included), you can expect your final grade on the assignment to be lowered. 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.

drop date

Assignments:

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

week 1	8/17-8/19	intro, critical reading
week 2	8/24-8/26	summary
week 3	8/31-9/2	summary test Thursday
week 4	9/7-9/9	deductive essay before research typed draft Tues, due for grade Thursday
week 5	9/14-9/16	Charles Baxter Tues PM; fallacies, start research
week 6	9/21-9/23	deduct essay, research added due
week 7	9/28-9/30	critical analysis
week 8	10/5-10/7	critical analysis draft due Wed, due for grade Friday
week 9	10/12-10/14	group critical analyses, drop date Friday 9/15
week 10	10/19-10/21	second critical analysis, draft Tues, due for grade Th
week 11-14	10/26-11/18	synthesis project--1 critical analysis on synthesis topic due each week(one graded), draft due 4/23
week 15	11/23	synthesis due
week 16-17	11/30-12/9	comparative analysis
week 18	12/14	takehome final (due Tuesday noon in A-6)

10/15

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 (1/8th); 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. 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 me a note.