

Thinking Through Argument: Critical Reading and Writing
English 151 section 11; crn 10195; fall 2009
Professor Shaffer; 313 Palmer; phone: 843-3976
Palmer 203; T/TH 12:30-1:45 pm
Office Hours: T/TH 1:45- 3 pm and by appointment

This course is designed to develop your ability to read and think critically, to employ discussion and writing as a means of exploring and refining ideas, and to express those ideas in effective prose. This section of the course will focus on socioeconomic, political, and philosophical arguments of canonical European and American thinkers of the past two centuries as the basis of your own written arguments.

Course Texts (*for purchase in the bookstore):

Jacobus, *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers* (eighth edition)*

Mayberry, *For Argument's Sake: A Guide to Writing Effective Arguments* (fifth edition)*

Ozick, *The Shawl**

Strunk, *The Elements of Style* (first edition)*

Rhodes College Guide to Effective Paper Writing

Assorted Handouts

Class Policy:

Written work submitted late will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per 24-hour period. One unexcused absence per semester is permitted (though never on written-work due-dates); two or more will negatively affect your final course grade. Failure to complete any written assignment or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade in the course. *All work for this class must be done in strict compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.*

Requirements:

Four essays, each revised once: 70%*

Participation, attendance, reading quizzes, presentation: 30%

*800-1000-word essay: 10%; 1200-1500-word essay: 15%; 1600-2000-word essay: 20%;
2000-2500-word *research* essay: 25%

Reading and writing assignments are due on the class dates listed on the calendar overleaf. Bring the appropriate texts to class each day.

Thursday	August 27	Course Introduction
Tuesday	September 1	Jacobus/Machiavelli; Mayberry Chapter 1
Thursday	3	Jacobus/Rousseau; Mayberry Chapter 2
Tuesday	8	Draft 1 Due ; Peer Workshops
Thursday	10	Jacobus/Jefferson; Mayberry Chapter 3
Tuesday	15	Jacobus/Arendt; Mayberry Chapter 4; Essay 1 Due
Thursday	17	Ozick; Mayberry Chapter 5
Tuesday	22	Jacobus/Emerson; Mayberry Chapter 10
Thursday	24	Draft 2 Due ; Peer Workshops
Tuesday	29	Jacobus/Douglass; Mayberry Chapter 11
Thursday	October 1	Jacobus/Thoreau; Mayberry Chapter 12; Essay 2 Due
Tuesday	6	Jacobus/Stanton; Strunk/Rhodes (selections)
Thursday	8	Jacobus/King; Strunk/Rhodes (selections)
Tuesday	13	Draft 3 Due ; Peer Workshops
Thursday	15	Midterm Conferences
Tuesday	20	Fall Break
Thursday	22	Burns (handout); Strunk/Rhodes (selections)
Tuesday	27	Jacobus/Galbraith; Strunk/Rhodes (selections); Essay 3 Due
Thursday	29	Forster (handout)
Tuesday	November 3	Library/Research Orientation (meet in library)
Thursday	5	Library/Research Orientation (meet in library)
Tuesday	10	Approaches to the Documentation of Sources
Thursday	12	Draft 4 Due ; Peer Workshops
Tuesday	17	Jacobus/Singer & Mason
Thursday	19	Jacobus/Marx
Tuesday	24	TNR (handout)
Thursday	26	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday	December 1	Presentations; Essay 4 Due
Thursday	3	Presentations
Tuesday	8	Presentations
Fri-Wed	11-16	Final Exams

Writing Assignment Instructions
Professor Shaffer
English 151

1. Type and double-space all essay drafts and final copies. Use one-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-point font (approximately 300 words) on each page. Staple the pages of your essay together. Include your name, my name, a paper title, and a word count on each essay.
2. Be sure that your essay has a clear and identifiable thesis.
3. Substantiate your argument with textual evidence.
4. Use the present tense and active voice in your essay whenever possible.
5. Carefully proofread your work for grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors *before* submitting it.
6. Always keep an extra copy of your essay in safe-keeping and give yourself adequate time to complete all written work. *Planning ahead will help you avoid last-minute crises (and mandatory late-work penalties).*
7. Pledge your work in full under the Rhodes Honor Code.
8. Bring three copies of your essay to class on Peer Workshop days. One copy will suffice on final draft due dates.