

ENG151A: Critical Thinking and Writing
 T/Th 8-9:30am, Palmer 203
 Professor Finlayson
 Palmer 309, phone 843-3445
 Office hours: T/Th 9:30-10am & by appt
 finlayson@rhodes.edu
 finlayson@mindspring.com (alt)

The Structure of Argument, Annette Rottenberg
Prozac Nation: A Memoir, Elizabeth Wurtzel
Goodbye, Columbus, Philip Roth

Th, Jan 14:	The Usual	Th, Mar 25:	Grammar day. Paper 4 due
Tu, Jan 19:	Rottenberg, 3-37	Tu, Mar 30:	Rottenberg, 312-329 (Paper 4 writers) 332-354 (Presentation Paper writers)
Th, Jan 21:	Rottenberg, 47-66, 88-92	Th, Apr 1:	No class, Easter Break
Tu, Jan 26:	Rottenberg, 94-126, 131-135	Mon, Apr 5:	Evening film viewing
Th, Jan 28:	Rottenberg, 138-163 Grammar hand-out due	Tu, Apr 6:	Film, <i>Ice Storm</i> . Presentations/Paper
Tu, Feb 2:	Library/Grammar day. Paper 1 due	Th, Apr 8:	Film, <i>Ice Storm</i> . Presentations/Paper
Th, Feb 4:	Rottenberg, 179-197	Tu, Apr 13:	Workshop. Draft Paper 4 due No class for presenters.
Tu, Feb 9:	Rottenberg, 213-246	Th, Apr 15:	Roth, "Goodbye, Columbus," 1-75
Th, Feb 11:	Rottenberg, 248-278, 289-303	Fri, Apr 16:	Paper 4 due
Tu, Feb 16:	Advertisements	Tu, Apr 20:	Roth, "Goodbye, Columbus," 75-136
Th, Feb 18:	Advertisements Grammar hand-out due	Th, Apr 22:	Roth, "Defender of the Faith," 161-200
Tu, Feb 23:	Library/Grammar day. Paper 2 due	Tu, Apr 27:	Roth, "Conversion of the Jews," 137-158
Th, Feb 25:	Rottenberg, 312-329 (Paper 4 writers) 332-354 (Presentation Paper writers)	Th, Apr 29:	Last class. Workshop. Draft Paper 5 due
Tu, Mar 2:	Wurtzel, <i>Prozac Nation</i> , 1-91	Mon, May 3:	Paper 5 due
Th, Mar 4:	Wurtzel, <i>Prozac Nation</i> , 91-179 Presentations/Paper		
Tu, Mar 9:	No class, Spring Break		
Th, Mar 11:	No class, Spring Break		
Tu, Mar 16:	Wurtzel, <i>Prozac Nation</i> , 181-241 Presentations/Paper		
Th, Mar 18:	Wurtzel, <i>Prozac Nation</i> , 243-351 Grammar hand-out due		
Tu, Mar 23:	Workshop. Draft Paper 4 due No class for presenters.		

COURSE DESCRIPTION: "Critical Thinking and Writing" will develop your analytical thinking skills through close readings of a variety of texts and mediums and will strengthen your persuasive writing ability. We will examine a novel, short stories, a memoir, advertisements, a film, as well as essays about popular culture and science. Throughout the semester, we will concentrate on clear, logical writing, incorporating a range of rhetorical expression and covering many different topics.

ASSIGNMENTS: In addition to the formal papers outlined below, you will be responsible for active participation in class, for several pop quizzes, and for short (1-2 page) written assignments.

Writing Assignments: This writing will include the following: in-class assignments, homework, grammar hand-outs, peer reviews, and paper drafts. All assignments except those done in-class should be typed.

I will periodically record your fulfillment of these assignments by collecting them on the day they are due.

Quizzes: There will be approximately 4 pop quizzes on the reading and writing topics. I will drop your lowest grade.

Presentation: You and a partner will give a 10-minute presentation offering a researched thesis regarding an historical event.

On the day of the presentation, you will turn in a 1200-word paper setting forth your claims and support. You'll be required to use and document at least 3 sources of information outside of the world wide web.

Papers: You will write five papers, including the presentation paper, in this class. For several of the papers, you will be required to turn in a draft for peer review before the final paper (see syllabus). This draft will be graded as a writing assignment and must be turned in with your final paper. In addition, your revision of the draft may affect your final grade on that paper. If you need help formulating a paper topic or structuring your paper, I will be available during office hours and by appointment.

LATE PAPERS: You have one automatically "excused" late paper (excepting the last paper, which is due on time) to be taken at your discretion. When you take it, inform me, and your paper will be due one class period late. Otherwise, all papers are due on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late paper will be penalized a two-tier reduction per day late; in other words, an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B-, and so on. Choose your "excused" paper wisely as there will be no other extensions. Note: Late or missing writing assignments receive a zero.

GRADING: All assignments--papers, exams, quizzes--are subject to the honor code. All work will be evaluated on the basis of the grading scale outlined on page 71 of the current Rhodes College Catalogue. If you have questions about a grade you receive, please come see me during office hours after the following class period. In other words, take a day or two to think about your questions. Your final grade for the course will be computed as follows:

10% for each: quizzes, written assignments, Paper 1 (600-800 words), Paper 2 (800-1000 words);

15% for Presentation/Paper 3 (1000-1200 words)

20% for Paper 4 (1200-1500 words)

25% for Paper 5 (1500-2000 words)

ABSENCES: You are allowed three (3) absences free-of-charge; use them wisely. Beyond those three, any absences and/or habitual tardiness will cost your final course average two tenths of a point. If you miss more than nine classes, you will fail the course. If you miss class on the day a paper is due, please leave it outside my office door no later than noon that day, otherwise it will be considered late. Note: *you are responsible* for finding out what happened in class the day you were absent.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS: All formal papers in this class are to be typed with approximately 300 words per page, double-spaced, pledged in full, and should include a word count, your name, my name, and a title. This is a writing course, and thus I expect your papers to be fully proofread for grammar and spelling. Habitually reckless proofreading will result in a lower paper grade. Whenever you document a source, please use the MLA format. Finally, always keep a spare hard copy of your paper.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM

Here's a simple rule of thumb: facts or opinions acquired during the writing of the assignment must be acknowledged. In other words, you probably don't need to cite general knowledge which you simply remember; on the other hand, you must provide citation for any facts and/or opinions which you have gleaned from specific sources. Keep in mind that citing your sources will never diminish, but will rather enhance, the integrity of your paper. (If your readers are ever inclined to doubt what you say, they can always go check the source; the absence of a citation on the other hand, might make them think you're hiding something.) The same rule of thumb applies to the use of notes and textbooks from past courses, either at Rhodes or in secondary school: what is remembered probably needs no acknowledgment, but what is re-read in preparing the paper has been researched and thus must be acknowledged. As suggested above, you shouldn't run into too much of this sort of thing in this class, since the essay or novel

you're analyzing will be your primary text. Still, if you are at all confused about the requirements and guidelines of any given assignment, do not hesitate to consult me before you begin, so as to resolve any uncertainties concerning plagiarism.

Source: Plagiarism and the Honor System at Washington & Lee