

ENG155: DAILY THEMES

Professor Finlayson: Palmer 317; 843-3293

Tu 1-2:30pm; Palmer 210

Office hours: MW 10-12pm; Th 12-2pm & by appt

finlayson@rhodes.edu

Everything's an Argument with Readings, Lunsford, Ruszkiewicz, Walters

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison

COURSE DESCRIPTION. English 155 is an alternative to English 151 offered to outstanding and committed first-year writers. Like 151, Daily Themes focuses on the 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. Students will meet as a group once a week and individually with the professor once a week. Students will turn in 5 one-page themes each week, and the daily themes will be the basis for two longer papers, including a research paper near the end of the semester.

Th, Aug 23:	Information class.		
Tu, Aug 28:	Chapters 1-3: Introducing Argument 1 Ch 9: Definition 109 Who Will Own Your Next Idea? 564	Tu, Oct 2:	Chapter 14: Figurative Language and Argument 239 <i>Bluest Eye</i>
Tu, Sept 4:	Ch 5: Arguments of Value 57 Ch 6: Arguments of Character 64 Point/Counterpoint 438 Divinity & Pornography 442 Stripped of More than My Clothes 448 Ch 10: Evaluation 135 Look at Me! Leave Me Alone! 456 Why I Star in My Own Truman 464 The Accountability Matrix 473	Tu, Oct 9:	<i>Bluest Eye</i>
		Tu, Oct 16:	No class, Fall Break
		Tu, Oct 23:	Workshop
		Tu, Oct 30:	Ch 4: Arguments from the Heart 49 Ads Soliciting Egg Donors 700 \$50K Offered 702 Ad for Smart Eggs Uproar 705 New Technology...Choose Gender 707 Weighing the Right to Own Embryo 546
Tu, Sept 11:	Library / Workshop	Tu, Nov 6:	Ch 8: Warrants Chapter 19: Fallacies of Argument Ch28, Part 2: Free Speech 671
Tu, Sept 18:	Ch 7: Fact and Reason 73 The Joy of Women's Sports 482 Dropping Men's Teams to Comply 494 Despite the Positive Rhetoric... 502 Ch 12: Proposal 190 Bad as They Wanna Be 519 The Cost of Hoop Dreams 526 X Games 531	Tu, Nov 13:	Intro to researching. Chapter 18: What Counts as Evidence
		Tu, Nov 20:	Research questions due. Library
		Tu, Nov 27:	Proposal due Chapters 20-22: plagiarism/sources
Tu, Sept 25:	Ch 15: Visual Arguments 251 Fu Manchu on Naboo 375 Sitcom Dads Rarely Know Best 385 Taco Bell and Latino Stereotypes Ch 11: Causal 161 TV Alters Fiji Girls' View of Body 398 The Culture of Thin Bites Fiji 401 One Picture Worth Thousand Diets 408 Turning Boys in Girls 428 Selling Men's Underwear 432	Tu, Dec 4:	Workshop research paper. Last class.
		Th, Dec 6:	Research paper due

ENG 155 POLICIES. PROFESSOR FINLAYSON

WRITING

You will write five 1-page, double-spaced papers each week. If you'd like to *occasionally* combine 2-3 days of writing into one 2-3-page essay, that's fine. However, keep in mind that the goal is for you to write on a daily basis. You may leave each day's paper outside my office at any time (please indicate the hour on the first page); I will comment on the papers (though not grade them) and put them back in the pocket within about 24 hours (but often within the same day). Twice during the semester, you will use one or more of your daily themes to produce a longer, argumentative paper, one of which will be researched and will include a list of works cited.

Each week, the subjects of your daily themes should be inspired by several things: the assigned reading in *Everything's an Argument*; an outside text (story, poem, article, essay, visual text, Web site) that is related to the week's theme; the sample assignments; and current events or personal circumstance. As much as possible, use the readings for the week as a context for your themes.

Although Daily Themes fosters a more unrestricted writing environment than other writing courses, you should always have a specific point to your writing. You can consider it a thesis, a rhetorical goal, or even just an analytical focus. In any case, your themes should produce ideas that are well developed and supported. Avoid simply meandering aimlessly through a random thought. Occasionally, you may need to revise your daily themes before submitting them. Your writing should be typed with approximately *300 words per page* (i.e. Times Roman 12; 1" margins), double-spaced, and *must* include, your name, my name, and a title. Proofread your papers for typos and grammar errors. Reckless proofreading will affect your Daily Themes grade. Whenever you document a source, please use the MLA format. Please submit *hard copies* of your writing and always keep a space copy.

CONFERENCES AND CLASS MEETINGS

Because our class gathers only once each week, you will meet with me and/or with one of the tutors in the Writing Center for help and/or discussion every week. In your conference with me, we'll discuss both your upcoming writing and the work you've already submitted. The goal of these conferences is to find ways of developing your writing through planning, organizing, documenting, revising, and so on, rather than to correct grammar or mechanics. We will meet as a group once each week on Tuesday to discuss the reading (both the rhetoric and essays) and your writing. Occasionally, we'll hold a workshop in which your peers review your writing.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be based largely on your efforts throughout the semester to write thoughtful and consistent daily themes. Although I won't grade each essay individually, I will be assessing your development and improvement from week to week, which will result in 60% of your final grade. You are granted four free "skips" for written daily themes; after that, your grade will suffer. Your two longer papers will receive formal grades (10% for the Bluest Eye paper; 20% for the research paper). Because of the limited class time, participation and attendance are imperative. 10% of your final grade will be based on your level of discussion in class, your thoughtful peer reviews in workshop, and your commitment to productive conferences with me and the WC tutors. Because we only meet once each week, I expect perfect attendance. In the event of an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible (beforehand would be best). If you miss more than one class, your grade will drop by an entire letter grade (A becomes B and so on) for each day missed; if you miss more than three classes, you will fail the course. Please be on time. If you are absent or late, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

HONOR CODE

All of your work for this course must adhere to the Rhodes honor code. If you are ever unsure if you might be violating the code, please contact me or another professor to find out.