

ENG151: Critical Thinking and Writing

Professor Finlayson: Palmer 317; 843-3293

T/Th 9:40-11:10 am; Buckman 307

Office hours: Mon 10-12pm; Wed 1-2pm; Tues 1-2pm

finlayson@rhodes.edu

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

The goal of this course is to develop your ability to read, think, and write critically, to employ discussion and writing as a means of exploring and refining ideas, and to express those ideas in effective prose. 151 will emphasize successive stages of the writing process, including pre-writing, drafting, and revision. One of your papers will involve the use of the library and research material and proper documentation.

Th, Aug 29: First class.

Tu, Sept 3: Chapters 1-3: Introducing Argument 1

Th, Sept 5: Ch 9: Definition 109

Who Will Own Your Next Idea? 564

Tu, Sept 10: Ch 5: Arguments of Value 57

Point/Counterpoint 438

Divinity & Pornography 442

Stripped of More than My Clothes 448

Th, Sept 12: Ch 10: Evaluation 135

Look at Me! Leave Me Alone! 456

Why I Star in My Own Truman Show 464

My Taxicab Confession 467

The Accountability Matrix 473

Mon, Sept 16: Workshop drafts due 2pm

Tu, Sept 17: Workshop Paper 1

Th, Sept 19: Paper 1 due. TBA

Tu, Sept 24: Ch 11: Causal 161

TV Alters Fiji Girls' View of Body 398

The Culture of Thin Bites Fiji 401

One Picture Worth a Thousand Diets 408

Turning Boys in Girls 428

Selling Men's Underwear 432

Th, Sept 28: Fu Manchu on Naboo 375

Sitcom Dads Rarely Know Best 385

Taco Bell and Latino Stereotypes

Mon, Sep 30: Workshop drafts due 2pm

Tu, Oct 1: Workshop Paper 2

Th, Oct 3: Paper 2 due. TBA

Tu, Oct 8: Ch 4: Arguments from the Heart 49

Ads Soliciting Egg Donors 700

\$50K Offered 702

Ad for Smart Eggs Uproar 705

Th, Oct 10: Ch 8: Warrants

New Technology...Choose Gender 707
Weighing the Right to Own Embryo 546
Plan Would Alter Organ Sharing 550

Tu, Oct 15: Discovery's "Designer Babies?" video

Th, Oct 17: Reading TBA

Tu, Oct 22: FALL BREAK. No class.

Wed, Oct 23: Workshop drafts due 2pm

Th, Oct 24: Workshop Paper 3

Tu, Oct 29: Paper 3 due.

Th, Oct 31: ENG151 Library visit.

Tu, Nov 5: Ch 4: Arguments from the Heart 49
Join Hands across the Divide 635
A Little Matter of Faith 639
An Open Letter 649

Th, Nov 7: Ch 19: Fallacies of Arg.
Journey toward Wholeness 654
Me? Apologize for Slavery? 661
I Have a Dream 666

Tu, Nov 12: Anticipating Connerly's Visit 673
Connerly Booed at Talk 77
What Happened? 680

Th, Nov 14: Daily Texan Readers Respond 684
How Leftists "Debate" 687
News from the Ladies Room 690

Mon, Nov 18: Workshop drafts due 2pm

Tu, Nov 19: Workshop Paper 4

Th, Nov 21: Paper 4 due. Introduction to research.

Tu, Nov 26: Chapter 18: What Counts as Evidence.
Research questions due.

Th, Nov 28: THANKSGIVING. No class.

Tu, Dec 3: Ch 12: Proposal 190
Proposal due.
Chapters 20-22: plagiarism/sources

Th, Dec 5: All-class workshop research paper.

Tu, Dec 10: Last Class. Research Paper due.

ENG 151 POLICIES. PROFESSOR FINLAYSON

PAPERS—70%

There are 5 formal papers for this class. They should be typed with approximately *300 words per page* (i.e. Times Roman 12; 1" margins), double-spaced, pledged in full, and **must include a word count, your name, my name, and a critical title**. Proofread your papers for typos and grammar errors. For every error, your paper grade will suffer 0.1 point on a 4.0 scale. (A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, etc.) Your first four papers should not include any outside sources, excepting your class text where appropriate. Your final research paper will include outside sources, which should be documented in MLA format. All other paper formatting, including spacing, quoting, etc, also should follow MLA style, which can be found in your text *A Writer's Handbook*. Submit only hard copies of final drafts and always keep a spare hard copy of your paper. *Late papers:* All papers are due *in class* on the day stipulated on the syllabus. Any unexcused late paper will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for every day late (A becomes A-, B+ becomes B). I will grant extensions in special circumstances. If you need an extension, please contact me at least one class period before the paper is due.

Papers 1 and 2: 10% (1000 words ~ 3 pages)

Papers 3 and 4: 15% (1400 words ~ 4 pages)

Research Paper: 20% (1800+ words ~ 6+ pages)

I will direct you to a range of topics (largely gleaned from your *Everything's an Argument* book), and I encourage you to choose topics that interest you. I'm open to other ideas for paper topics, if you prefer to come up with one on your own. However, please clear these with me before beginning to write. When grading your papers, I will focus primarily on your ability to construct a viable and supported thesis. This means that I'll want to see a thesis that is, in fact, arguable, followed by a good deal of evidence that proves your position. I'll also be looking for stylistic things like helpful transitions (connections made between ideas), word choice, use of metaphor and tone, etc.

CONFERENCES

At some point in the semester, everyone is required to take at least one draft to the writing center (the center then forwards me a report) and also to meet with me regarding the formulating or writing of one paper (though you aren't required to bring me a draft). Failure to meet either of these requirements will affect your participation grade: each conference counts a full 1.0 point towards your participation. Please don't wait until the end of the semester to schedule your conferences (you may not be able to get an appointment).

WORKSHOP—10%

We will workshop approximately 3-4 drafts in the class period before a final paper draft is due. At the beginning of the semester, you'll sign up for which paper you'd like in workshop. If your paper is to be in workshop, you will need to submit 5 nameless copies of your draft to me no later than 2pm on the day preceding the workshop (see your syllabus). Your name should be on a separate copy for me. There are no "extensions" for drafts due to the nature of the assignment/workshop; however, you may switch with someone if you are unable to write your draft for the workshop for which you have signed up. Just keep me informed about any changes. Failure to turn in a draft by 2pm will result in a zero, which in turn will constitute 1/2 of your workshop grade. I will average your "draft" Pass/Fail with your overall workshop grade assessed by your peers and by me. During workshop, you will receive comments suggesting ways to revise both from your peers and me. **Your final paper grade will suffer if you don't revise the draft.** Your overall "workshop" grade will be determined by your own efforts towards the revision process. Your peers will comment on and grade your level of participation and help in their own workshop experiences. In other words, the more you help the writers whose drafts you evaluate, the better your

grade will be. When you turn in your revised, final paper that has been workshopped, you must also submit the following: the workshop draft with my comments, your peers' "review" sheets (though not the drafts that accompanied them), and a grade and 2-3 sentence comment based on how useful your peers reviews were.

RESPONSE PAPERS—10%

You will write two response papers during the course of the semester. Each one is worth 5% of your final grade. They will be 1-page, single-spaced informal responses (~ 500 words) to the reading for that day and are due at 9am preceding class. You may respond to a question offered at the end of the reading, or you may chose to write your own question and respond to it. Each response should begin with this question, and the body of the paper should be your reply. Consider the response to be a "critique" of the article, rather than a critique of the topic itself. In other words, your comments should focus on how well the author made his/her point and the writing strategies used to make that point.

Although the response papers are a chance for you to explore a new idea that you haven't fully developed yet and they are not "formal" papers, these 1-pagers should be well written and should propose some sort of supported argument assessing the author's strategies and ability. A response paper may also be used subsequently as a platform for one of your formal papers.

PARTICIPATION—10%

Class participation is an integral part of ENG 151, and it is formally included as a part of your final grade. Actively participating means the following: completing thoughtful written homework assignments, engaging in in-class writing (group or individual), joining frequently in class or group discussions with provocative and articulate comments and questions. I encourage you to take this aspect of the course seriously because your grade will reflect it. The Writing Center and professor conferences will be included in this grade.

ABSENCES

Failure to bring your book to class will result in an absence, and many class periods will open with a brief quiz designed to determine if you have done the reading assigned for that day. If you fail the quiz, I will record an absence for you (whether or not you choose to remain in class that day). It is not enough to simply "attend" class. You must come prepared and informed; this means reading *well*, not skimming. That said, use wisely the two "free/excused" absences I give (this includes illness, sports activities, personal holidays). Beyond those two, *each* additional absence (including those due to failed quizzes) will cost your final course average two tenths of a point. In the case of a truly extenuating circumstance, please come speak with me.

Habitual tardiness will also count against your final grade. Please be on time. If you miss more than six classes (not including failed quizzes and book absences), 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 2pm that day, otherwise it will be considered late. Note: ***you are responsible for finding out from a classmate*** what happened in class the day you were absent or late.

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.