

English151: Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing Prof. Robert Entzminger
Fall 1998

Office: 312 Palmer
Hours: 10-11 MWF, 3-4 MW
Phone: 843-3981
E-mail: entzminger@rhodes.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

This is a course that focuses on writing, especially on the process of writing and the forms of writing that students are most likely to produce in the course of an undergraduate education. But it is also a course in critical thinking and reading. You will consequently be asked to read and discuss a variety of texts: essays contained in your textbook as examples, sources that you will need to evaluate, writing that constitutes the subject of your own work, writing produced by your classmates, and your own work. Thus while most of your grade will be based on your essays, a significant portion will depend upon your active participation in discussion, your attendance, and your in-class writing.

Goals:

- 1) to develop the skills necessary to read complex material critically and analytically;
- 2) to develop the ability to critique the work of other students and to edit and revise one's own work;
- 3) to develop the ability to express, orally and in written form, logically developed and rhetorically persuasive arguments;
- 4) to develop the ability to locate, incorporate, and appropriately document relevant primary and secondary material in one's own papers.

TEXTS:

Barnet, Sylvan, and Hugo Bedau, eds., Current Issues and Enduring Questions, 4th ed. (Bedford Books, 1996)
Hacker, Diana, A Writer's Reference, 3rd ed. (Bedford Books, 1995)

REQUIREMENTS:

Four essays (including revisions)	15% each
Research essay	20%
Participation, attendance, in-class writing	20%

POLICIES:

- 1) In-class writing, etc., may not be made up;
- 2) All assigned reading and writing is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned;
- 3) A penalty of 10% per day will be assessed for late papers;
- 4) Habitual tardiness or absence will be penalized.
- 5) All written work is governed by the Rhodes College Honor Code.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS (tentative):

Aug. 26 W Introduction to course
28 F "Critical Thinking" (B&B Ch. 1, pp. 3-14)
31 M "Critical Reading" (B&B Ch. 2, pp. 15-33)
Sept. 2 W "Critical Reading" (B&B Ch. 3, pp. 34-57)

4 F “Critical Writing” (B&B Ch. 4, pp. 73-86)

7 M **Labor Day--No class**

9 W Susan Glaspell, “Trifles” (B&B, pp. 607-17)

11 F “Are We Bound to Obey the State?” (B&B, pp. 569-91)

14 M cont.

16 W Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (B&B, pp. 591-606)
Mitsuye Yamada, “To the Lady” (B&B, pp. 625-26)

18 F cont.

Paper #1 due

21 M Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery” (B&B, pp. 618-25)

23 W “What is the Ideal Society?” (B&B, Ch. 17, pp. 535-57)

25 F “Ideal Society” cont. (B&B, pp. 558-68)

28 M “A Logician’s View” (B&B, Ch. 23, pp. 758-84)

30 W cont.

Oct. 2 F “A Psychologist’s View” (B&B, Ch. 25, pp. 794-801)

5 M cont.

7 W “A Humorist’s View” (B&B, Ch. 24, pp. 785-93)

9 F cont.

Paper #2 due

12 M “Television Violence” (B&B, Ch. 16, pp. 525-32)

14 W “What Are the Bounds of Free Speech?” (B&B, Ch. 19, pp. 627-32)

16 F Reread B&B pp. 20-33
“A Philosopher’s View” (B&B, Ch. 21, pp. 750-57)

19 M **No Class--Fall Break**

21 W cont. (B&B, pp. 632-43)

23 F cont. (B&B, pp. 643-650)

26 M cont.

28 W cont. (B&B, pp. 650-64)

30 F cont.

Paper #3 due

- Nov. 2 M **Three Debates about Education**
 1. Evolution (B&B, pp. 263-74)
- 4 W 2. Prayer in School (B&B, pp. 288-91)
 3. Sex Education (B&B, pp. 292-98)
- 6 F **Library Orientation I**
- 9 M **Library Orientation II**
- 11 W “Critical Writing: Using Sources” (B&B, Ch. 6, pp. 156-72)
- 13 F **Work in Library**
 “Using Sources” (B&B, pp. 172-208)
- 16 M “What are the Grounds of Religious Faith?” (B&B, Ch. 20, pp. 665-90)
- 18 W “Religious Faith” cont. (B&B, pp. 691-704)
- 20 F “Religious Faith” cont. (B&B, pp. 704-25)
- 23 M “Religious Faith” cont.
 Paper #4 due
- 25-29 **Thanksgiving Break**
- 30 M “A Literary Critic’s View” (B&B, Ch. 21, pp. 729-45)
- Dec. 2 W “Literary Critic’s View” cont. (B&B, pp. 745-49)
- 4 F cont.
- 7 M cont.
- 9 W Some conclusions
 Paper #5 due

