

Advanced College Writing Syllabus

Developed by:

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Approved by the Program Academic Council
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Protocol # 3

1. Course Description

a. Pre-requisites

The course “Advanced College Writing” is available only to students with a good level of English (not less than B2). That is, they have either successfully passed through “Essential English” and “Introduction to College Writing” or already had high English level by the time they entered the program (as classified by the English level test).

b. Course Type (compulsory, elective, optional)

Elective course

2. Abstract

On television, in the newspaper, and on the internet, arguments are all around us. We make arguments when we speak to our instructors, our parents, our friends. We encounter them when we read signs on the highway or consult our favorite popular culture blog. Arguments—speech acts designed to persuade—are at the core of human communication, though many of us never think about understanding how to interpret and produce them as essential skills for developing literacy and fluency.

Advanced College Writing is designed for students at an advanced level of English language study who wish to have a firmer grounding in writing before proceeding to content courses where more highly developed writing skills are required. Though continuing to build English language fluency is a goal for this course, at its heart, this is a course in argumentation grounded in both classical and modern rhetorical theory.

3. Learning Objectives

The aim of the course is to help you develop the skills necessary to understand, break down, and critique someone else's argument while also helping you develop a process for constructing and presenting your own ideas in a persuasive form.

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should have progressed in their ability to:

- Formulate an interesting research question
- Locate, evaluate, and cite sources in the scholarly, journalistic, and popular domains
- Analyze the arguments of others with reference to basic rhetorical principles, such as logos, ethos, and pathos, argument types, and rhetorical fallacies
- Write in common academic genres such as the proposal and the literature review
- Write well-organized, argument-driven papers that demonstrate awareness of exigency and audience and deploy appropriate modes of persuasion
- Identify and correct common grammar and vocabulary mistakes in English
- Revise in response to feedback from peer readers as well as the instructor
- Participate in oral discussion and debate in English, though, it should be stressed, this is not predominantly a speaking course
- Deliver an argument-driven presentation in English

5. Course Plan

Unit I – Finding and Understanding Arguments

Introduction; What is an Argument?

Argument and Communication

Finding and Evaluating Sources

Introductions and Conclusions

Unit II – Analyzing Arguments

Breaking Down an Argument

Rhetorical Analysis: Arguments and Audience

Short Analysis I

Analyzing a Creative Work

Common Grammatical Errors and How to Fix Them

Punctuation Rules in English

Unit III – Making Arguments

Debate

Wrap-Up Discussion

Final Presentations

6. Reading List

a. Required

1. Jackson, Howard. Good Grammar for Students, SAGE Publications, 2005. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=343969>.
2. Straus, Jane, et al. The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation : An Easy-To-Use Guide with Clear Rules, Real-World Examples, and Reproducible Quizzes, John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1602923>.

a. Optional

1. Pylkkänen, Liina. Introducing Arguments, MIT Press, 2008. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3338875>.
2. Schlesinger, Izchak M., et al. Structure of Arguments, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2001. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=623154>.

7. Grading System

Participation and Attendance – 5%

Journal Entries – 5%

Short Assignments – 20%

Major Essay 1.1 – Advisory

Major Essay 1.2 – 15%

Major Essay 2.1 – 10%

Major Essay 2.2 – 15%

Major Essay 3.1 – 10%

Major Essay 3.2 – 15%

Final Presentation – 5%

8. Methods of Instruction

The following methods and forms of study are used in the course:

- Lectures
- Self-learning with literature

9. Special Equipment and Software Support

The following software programs from local HSE network (by contract) will be used in class:

Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS or

Microsoft Windows 10 or

Microsoft Windows 8.1 Professional RUS.