

Advanced College Writing

Fall 2019

Instructor Info:

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Course Info:

English 301

Course Description:

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. 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.

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

Required Texts:

Graff & Birkenstein, *They Say I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*

Assessment:

Journal Entries – 5%

Peer Review Participation – 5%

Short Assignments (research summaries and short analysis papers) – 20%

Major Essay 1.1 – Advisory*

Major Essay 1.2 – 15% (blocking)**

Major Essay 2.1 – 10%

Major Essay 2.2 – 15% (blocking)

Major Essay 3.1 – 10%
Major Essay 3.2 – 15% (blocking)
Final Presentation – 5%

***Major Essay 1 is given an “advisory” grade that does not actually count toward the final grade. It just tells you what you would have gotten so that you are well-informed going into the revision. Major Essays 2.1 and 3.1 count toward the final grade.**

****First drafts of the major essays (1.1, 2.1, 3.1) may not be submitted late (see Deadlines and Extensions below). Major Essays submitted after deadlines will be counted as final and are not eligible for revision. All three major essays must be submitted in order for the student to pass the course.**

Attendance:

Regular and timely attendance is essential to doing well in this class. You are counted absent if you miss more than twenty minutes of any given class period. You are allowed 4 “free” absences for the entire semester. Each subsequent absence will result in the deduction of 1 point from your final grade. The only absences that are excused are those that have been documented and approved by the Joint Program office.

Deadlines and Extensions:

All assignments are due at 18:00 on the date listed on the schedule. Every student is allowed one 48-hour extension without penalty. This extension must be requested by email (as conversations in the chaos before and after class are easily forgotten) prior to the deadline.

Only the following assignments are eligible for this extension:

Research Summary 1
Research Summary 2
Research Summary 3
Short Analysis 1
Short Analysis 2
Major Essay 1.2
Major Essay 2.2
Major Essay 3.2

Ineligible assignments will receive a zero (with no feedback) if not submitted by the time the instructor downloads papers from my.nes.ru at 20:00.

Make-up Work:

If a student receives a failing grade in the course, he/she must complete any blocking assignments that are failing or incomplete. These assignments must be completed during the designated make-up period and will be assessed by the course instructor.

Only the following assignments are eligible for make-up:

Major Essay 1.2
Major Essay 2.2
Major Essay 3.2

If the course instructor determines that the student has still not passed the course, the student will complete an additional make-up assignment that will be assessed by a three-member panel. This assignment will be graded on a pass/fail basis to determine whether the student has demonstrated all the skills they should have acquired during the course (see Course Description).

Electronics:

Unless use is authorized during group activities, laptops must be put away during class. Phones and tablets may be used as dictionaries, to access assigned readings, and to record lectures but must be kept silent. Suspected inappropriate use of electronics will result in points deducted from your participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette:

Students are expected to observe the following basic rules of classroom decorum:

- You must come to class on time.
- When the instructor or another student is talking in front of the class, you should not be talking.
- If discussion is happening in class, you should not be conducting side conversations with your friends.
- If you find yourself becoming sleepy during class, you are permitted to leave the room for a few minutes to collect yourself. Under no circumstances should your head be on your desk.

Egregious violations of these rules (talking during student presentations, excessive lateness, sleeping during class) may result in an unexcused absence or deductions from your participation grade.

Academic Honesty:

This course seeks to uphold the Joint Program's commitment to ensuring academic honesty. All work submitted in this class must be the student's own. Assignments calling for the use of outside sources must contain both a Reference page and in-text citations or footnotes. APA and MLA are the standard citation formats for this course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Joint Program administration.

Communication:

Students should check their nes.ru email accounts regularly, as important information about the course (emergency cancellations, deadline changes) may be communicated in that way. Email is also the best way to reach me, though you should understand that I generally do not respond to email after 20:00 or before 9:00. If you have a question about an assignment, you should not wait until the night before it is due to ask.

The Writing and Communication Center

The WCC is a free student support service designed to assist you with all your writing needs during your time in the program (and even after you graduate). Consultants (both English and Russian speakers) are available to meet with you for 45-minute sessions. You may sign up for a consultation using the "WCC" tab on my.nes.ru. Limited walk-in hours are also available. For further information, see the WCC's website at www.nes.ru/wcc and follow the WCC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/neswcc).

Schedule (*subject to change*):

Homework assignments and required readings are listed on the date they are due. All written assignments are due on my.nes.ru by 20:00 on the date listed.

Unit I – Finding and Understanding Arguments**Week 1** (*September 2-6*)

1 – FY Orientation – No class

2 – Introduction

Read: *They Say, I Say*, "Introduction"

Week 2 (*September 9-13*)

1 – Argument and Communication

Read: Hugo Mercier, Dan Sperber, “Why do humans reason? Arguments for an Argumentative Theory”

2 – Summarizing Arguments

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 2

Write: Journal Prompt #1

Week 3 (September 16-20)

1 – Finding and Evaluating Sources

Read: Vanessa Otero, “News Quality,” “The Reasoning and Methodology Behind the Chart”

Write: Research Summary 1

2 – Crediting Others

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 3; Yale University, “What is Plagiarism”

Write: Journal Prompt #2

Week 4 (September 23-27)

1 – Explanation of Major Essay I

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 17

Write: Research Summary 2

2 – Pre-writing

Read: Anne Lamott, “Shitty First Drafts”

Write: Research Summary 3

Week 5 (September 30-October 4)

1 – Introductions and Conclusions

Write: Journal Prompt #3

2 – Peer Review and Individual Conferences

Write: Rough Draft of Major Essay 1

Unit II – Analyzing Arguments

Week 6 (October 7-11)

1 – Breaking Down an Argument

Read: *The Craft of Research*, Part III

2 – Rhetorical Analysis: Logos, Ethos, and Pathos

Write: Journal Prompt #4; Major Essay 1.1

Week 7 (October 14-18)

1 – Rhetorical Analysis: Arguments and Audience

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 14

2 – Logical Fallacies

Write: Short Analysis 1

Week 8 (October 21-25)

Consultation Week – no classes

Write: Journal Prompt #5; Major Essay 1.2

Week 9 (October 28-November 1)

1 – Analyzing a Creative Work

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 15

Write: Journal Prompt #6

2 – Analyzing a Creative Work

Write: Short Analysis 2

Week 10 (November 4-8)

1 – Analyzing a Creative Work

Read: TBA

Write: Journal Prompt #7

2 – Peer Review and Individual Conferences

Write: Rough Draft of Major Essay 2

Week 11 (November 11-15)

1 – Common Grammatical Errors and How to Fix Them

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 8

2 – Punctuation Rules in English

Write: Journal Prompt #8; Major Essay 2.1

Unit III – Making Arguments

Week 12 (November 18-22)

1 – Discussion of Major Essay III

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 4

2 – Preparation for Debate

Read: *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 12

Week 13 (November 25-29)

1 – Debate

2 – Debate

Write: Major Essay 2.2

Week 14 (December 2-6)

1 – Wrap-Up Discussion

Read: TBA

2 – Peer Review and Individual Conferences

Write: Rough Draft of Major Essay 3

Week 15 (December 9-13)

1 – Final Presentations

Write: Journal Prompt #9

2 – Final Presentations

Write: Major Essay 3.1

Week 16 (December 16-20)

1 – Final Presentations

2 – Final Presentations

Write: Journal Prompt #10

Week 17 (December 23-27)

Exam week – no class

December 31 – **Major Essay 3.2**