Advanced College Writing
Fall 2016

designed by Ashley Squires, Ph.D.

Instructor Info:
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Info:
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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.

Required Texts:
Provided on my.nes.ru

Assessment:
Group Participation – 10%
Short Assignments – 40%
Major Essays – 40%
Final Presentation – 10%

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 ½ a 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 23:59 on the date listed on the schedule. Late papers and homework will not be accepted in this class without prior approval from the instructor. Requests for assignment extensions *must* be made by email and not in person.

Make-up Work:
If a student receives a failing grade in the course, he/she must complete missing or failed assignment(s). These assignments must be completed during the designated make-up period and will be assessed by a three-member panel, including the course instructor. To determine the student's final grade, the make-up assignments will be plugged into the regular assessment formula with all grades previously earned in the class. Some assignments (participation, peer reviews, proposals, and select short assignments) cannot be made up and will stay recorded as zeros for the purpose of final assessment.

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.

Attentiveness and Decorum:
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.

Blatant 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 promoting 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 22:00 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 will 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 writingpedagogy.org and follow the WCC's Facebook page.

Schedule *(subject to change)*:

Homework assignments and required readings are listed on the date they are due. All written assignments are due online by 23:59 pm on the date listed.

Unit I – Recognizing and Understanding Arguments

Week 1 *(September 1 – 3)*
Day 1 - Introduction

Week 2 *(September 5 – 9)*
Day 1 – Introduction to Rhetoric and Persuasion
Day 2 – The Argumentative Theory of Reason
Read: Hugo Mercier, Dan Sperber, "Why do humans reason? Arguments for an Argumentative Theory." (This is a challenging article. Do your best.)
Listen: You Are Not So Smart—Arguing (podcast episode – distills a lot of what is in the article in a more understandable form)

Week 3 *(September 12 – 16)*
Day 1 – Controversy Selection
Read: Excerpt from *The Righteous Mind*
Day 2 – Breaking Down an Argument (Toulmin Model)
Write: Controversy Proposal

Week 4 *(September 19 – 23)*
Day 1 – Evaluating Sources
Day 2 – Documenting Sources
Write: Research Summary 1

Week 5 *(September 26 – 30)*
Day 1 – Explanation of Major Essay I
Day 2 – Student-led Discussion 1
Write: Research Summary 2

Week 6 *(October 3 – 7)*

Day 1 – Introduction to Logical Fallacies
Day 2 – Peer Review Day
Write: Rough Draft of Major Essay I

Unit II – Analyzing Arguments

Week 7 *(October 10 – 14)*
Day 1 – Rhetorical Strategies
Day 2 – Student-led Discussion 2
Write: First Draft of Major Essay I

Week 8 *(October 17 – 21)*
Day 1 – Major Essay II Explanation and Discussion
Day 2 – Writing Introductions and Conclusions, Structuring Paragraphs
Friday (Group 2)
Write: Short Analysis

Week 9 *(October 23 – 28)*
Consultation Week – no classes

Week 10 *(October 31 – November 4)*
Day 1 – Student-led Discussion 3
Write: Proposal and Annotated Bibliography for Major Essay II
Day 2 – Federal holiday – no class
Write: Second Draft of Major Essay II

Week 11 *(November 7 – 11)*
Day 1 – Arguments in Culture
Read: TBA
Day 2 – Peer Review Day
Write: Rough Draft of Major Essay II

Unit III – Making Arguments

Week 12 *(November 14 – 18)*
Day 1 – Audience Game
Day 2 – Student-led Discussion 4
Write: First Draft of Major Essay II

Week 13 *(November 21 – 25)*
Day 1 – Major Essay III Explanation and Discussion
Day 2 – Stases of Argument
Write: Proposal and Annotated Bibliography for Major Essay III

Week 14 *(November 28 – December 2)*
Day 1 – Structuring an Argument (Return to Toulmin)

Day 2 – Student-led Discussion 5
Write: Second Draft of Major Essay II

Week 15 *(December 5 – 9)*
Day 1 – Catch-up Day
Day 2 – Peer Review Day
Write: Rough Draft of Major Essay III

Week 16 *(December 12 – 16)*
Day 1 – Final Presentations
Day 2 – Final Presentations
Write: First Draft of Major Essay III

Week 17 *(December 19 – 23)*
Day 1 – Final Presentations
Day 2 – Final Presentations

Week 18 *(December 26 – 30)*
Exam week – no class
December 30 – **Second Draft of Major Essay III**