

ENC 3312 Advanced Argumentative Writing

Summer B, 2014
Section 4038
Period 3 (11:00-12:15)
TUR 2342

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Office Hours:
T/W Period 4 (12:30-1:45)
Or by appointment

Description

This course focuses on making arguments; in particular, it addresses writing arguments. We will examine rhetorical argumentative structures and theories, ranging from classical to contemporary rhetoric. We will consider how we read arguments, but in service of better developing strategies for writing our own arguments. We will spend a substantial amount of the semester specifically considering the role of new media technologies and visual culture in making written arguments. We will also write a lot and talk about our writing a lot.

Textbooks

Williams, Joseph M. and Joseph Bizup. *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*. 5th ed. 2015.

All other readings will be available online or will be distributed by the instructor.

Assignments

All of the major writing assignments for this course can be categorized as either analytical or argumentative. But, keep in mind that even in the analytical assignments, you are working to convince readers to accept your analysis; therefore, your analytical assignments should be thought of as inherently argumentative.

Submitting Papers

All assignments should be submitted to me electronically. You may email me your papers as attachments (.doc or .rtf) or you may email me urls from where to download your papers. I will respond directly in the papers and return them to you electronically.

Assignment 1 1200 words

Due Monday, July 14, 2014

Analysis

For this assignment, you will use the argumentative and rhetorical “tools” we have examined up to this point in class. Your task is to locate a written argument (a newspaper editorial, an essay, a review, etc.) and analyze the structure of the argument. Once you have a good sense of how the argument is constructed and have determined whether that construction is or is not effective in making the argument, write an analysis of the argument. Remember, part of your task in writing this analysis isn’t just to show how the

argument was constructed, but is to *argue* that your analysis is accurate and logical. Your task is not to argue with the argument, but to consider how that argument is made.

Be sure to include a Xeroxed copy or URL of the argument you are analyzing, so I can read the original argument.

Assignment 2 1200 words

Due Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Argument Response

Let's face it, there are probably a dozen arguments that you'd like to respond to right now. So here's your opportunity. For this assignment, identify an argument that has been posed in writing—this can be anything from a political argument to a movie review. Your task is to evaluate the rhetorical situation and respond to the argument. Make your argument. Be sure to consider how you structure your argument, your style, tone, and approach. I'll be grading for all of the basics, but will also be looking for the sophistication of your argumentative strategies and the nuances of the moves you make. Don't just point out the obvious. Dig into the argument. This is not an opportunity to voice an opinion; rather, it is the chance to show that you understand how to evaluate and respond in writing to argument. Keep in mind that your essay will be relatively short—about 3-4 pages—so you won't have a great deal of space in which to respond. So, pick your topic carefully. Try to avoid topics like “evolution” and instead focus on concise, controlled arguments.

Assignment 3 1200 words

Due Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Do visual arguments matter? Given what we have discussed thus far in the semester, what role do visual arguments play in contemporary American (U.S.) culture/media/information? For this assignment, write an argumentative essay about the value and use of visual arguments. I will be looking for how you structure your argument and the appeals you use. Be alert to how you use evidence versus opinion.

Assignment 4 1200 words

Due Monday, August 4, 2014

For this assignment you will locate and analyze a visual argument that, in your reading, presents an argument that is ethically questionable. Your analysis should rely on any rhetorical approaches we have covered in class or others you have studied in your own reading/work. The analysis should focus specifically on the ways in which images are used to make or enhance the presented argument. The image should not be either secondary to the overall argument or mere dressing to the argument. Be sure to include either a copy of the image or a link to the image when you submit your paper.

Assignment 5 1500 words

Due Thursday, August 7, 2014

Using the information provided throughout the course, select one of the topic questions listed below, make a focused claim in response to that question, and write an argumentative essay about the topic. Be sure to establish a strong, specific claim within the topic, conduct research to learn more about the topic beyond what you may already know, provide substantial reasons for your claim, and supply reliable evidence in support of that claim.

- Should sustainability be an integral part of all college curricula?
- How important is or isn't the consumption of meat to good nutrition?
- How has information technology "improved" your life?
- Is it acceptable to use animals in scientific research?
- Is a college degree really valuable in the current economic climate?
- Should colleges begin using electronic textbooks exclusively rather than print textbooks?
- Should college students be required to demonstrate proficiency in a second language?
- Should animals be kept in zoos?

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, I will give ten fill-in-the-blank/multiple choice quizzes about assigned readings. The quizzes are designed to encourage you to keep up with the reading. They will be quite easy. If you have read the assignment for the day, you will have no problem getting all of the answers on the quiz correct. If you have not read the assignment, your chances of doing as well diminish.

Grading

Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	15%
Assignment 3	15%
Assignment 4	15%
Assignment 5	30%
Quizzes/Homework	10%

The following numeric equivalents will be used in determining your final averages:

A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0

C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.67
E	0-59	0.00

Policies

Writing Requirement (WR)

This course can satisfy the UF requirement for Writing. For more information, see: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggordon.html>

Statement on Student Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Statement on Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php#s4041>

Statement on Academic Dishonesty

All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Attendance Policies

Because summer classes are restricted by time, and because I provide a number of days in which we will not meet as a class, I expect you to attend and participate in class discussion every day of the session. However, I also realize that sometimes absences cannot be avoided. Thus, one unexcused absence is tolerated and left unquestioned. Any absence beyond that one, though, will result in a reduction of your final course average by 5 points.

Final Grade Appeals

If you have concerns about your **final** grade in the course and have met with me to discuss your final grade, you may pursue an appeal process by contacting Professor Stephanie Smith, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of English. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade. Grade appeals should only be pursued if you and I have an irresolvable dispute regarding your final grade. The English Department will not intervene in disputes over individual assignment grades.

(Tentative) Schedule

Note: readings are to be completed the day listed in the schedule; we will discuss those readings in class on that day.

WEEK 1

Monday, June 30, 2014

Course Introduction

Syllabus Review

What is Advanced Argumentative Writing?

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

Rhetorical Situation and the Location of Argument

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

Plato: Selections from *Gorgias*

Read: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/plato.pdf>

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Aristotle

Read: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-rhetoric/>

Friday, July 4, 2014

Independence Day, No Class Meeting

WEEK 2

Monday, July 7, 2014

Jeanne Fahnestock and Marie Secor, "Classical Rhetoric: The Art of Argumentation"

Read: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/Fahnstock.pdf>

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

On-line: Ethos, Pathos, Logos, and Kairos

Read: <http://web.calstatela.edu/faculty/jgarret/3waypers.htm>

Read: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/625/03/>

Watch: <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/2013/types-communication/academic-writing/arguments-introduction-to-ethos-pathos-and-logos/>

Assignment 1 Introduced

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Writing Day

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Read: Williams/Bizup, Preface and Lesson One (p. vii-ix; 1-6)

Friday, July 11, 2014

Stephen Toulmin

Read: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/Toulmin.pdf>

WEEK 3

Monday, July 14, 2014

Fallacy

Read: <http://www.nizkor.org/features/fallacies/>

Note: be sure to read all 42 subjects linked in the index on the left side of the page.

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Two (p. 7-18)

Assignment 1 Due

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Writing Day

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Writing Day

Friday, July 18, 2014

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Three (p. 19-33)

Assignment 2 introduced

WEEK 4

Monday, July 21, 2014

Visual Arguments

McCloud, Scott, "Setting the Record Straight" and "The Vocabulary of Comics"

Read: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/McCloud.pdf>

[Apologies: pages 14 and 15 are missing from the pdf]

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Visual Arguments

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Four (p. 34-43)

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Visual Arguments

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Five (p. 44-55)

Assignment 2 Due

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Visual Arguments

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Six (p. 56-69)

Assignment 3 introduced

Friday, July 25, 2014

Visual Arguments

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Seven (p. 70-81)

Assignment 4 Introduced

WEEK 5

Monday, July 28, 2014

Visual Arguments

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Eight (p. 82-93)

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Assignment 4 introduced

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Nine (p. 94-113)

Assignment 3 due

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Writing Day

Friday, August 1, 2014

Writing Day

WEEK 6

Monday, August 4, 2014

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Ten (p. 114-130)

Assignment 4 Due

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Read: Williams/Bizup, Lesson Eleven (p. 131-150)

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Thursday, August 7, 2014

Assignment 5 Due

Friday, August 8, 2014

Course Wrap up

Course Evaluations