Hufstedler School of Education
Alliant International University
ENG 2206
Composition II

Instructor:
Office, e-mail, phone:
Text to:
Office Hrs:

Required Texts
Lunsford, Ruszkiewicz, Walters. *Everything’s an Argument (3rd ed)*
Bedford / St. Martin’s, Boston, 2004

I. Course Description, Objectives, and Rationale:
In this course we will concentrate on developing the writing, reading, speaking and critical thinking skills you will need to succeed. The major focus of the course is on expository and argumentative / persuasive composition; however, the primary emphasis is on the dialectic, that is, skill in entertaining multiple viewpoints and logical argumentation. Besides critical thinking skills, strategies include methods of organization and development, dialectical argumentation, principles of basic research and the elements of style.

Please be aware that argumentative / persuasive writing is meant to be read and we will be sharing our papers and ideas with fellow classmates. Therefore, do not write about anything that you do not wish to share. In deciphering and analyzing our writing, we will workshop our essays in hopes of receiving a multitude of responses and suggestions. Workshops are intended, as are class-wide discussions, to not only permit, but to foster an awareness of exactly what a good essay is and, perhaps more importantly, how to write it.

Attendance and Assignments
1) Attendance is crucial -- you are a valuable part of this class and will be needed for lectures, discussions, and group work. There is a great deal of work necessary for the successful completion of this course, and therefore, attendance is mandatory at all class sessions. All work missed during absences must be made up and its point value will be lowered by 10% of its original score for every day it is late. You may want to exchange phone numbers with another student. Two or more unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade.
2) Assigned readings and writing assignments must be completed prior to class and you will need to be ready to participate in and, at the end of the term, lead a discussion on your Research Paper;
3) Satisfactory completion of all papers including formal and informal written assignments;
4) Satisfactory completion of the Midterm and Final Exams.
**Special Arrangements**

This is a disability / diversity friendly class. Students with disabilities or those who have need for special arrangements should see me.

**A Note on Interruptions**

If you must enter late or leave early, please do so quietly. Cellular phones or pagers must be on vibrate or turned off during class.

**II. Regarding the Assignments**

**Criteria**

Written assignments will be graded according to the following:
Content (is content in-line with purpose, is it consistent, and does it fulfill the stated requirement);
Expression (is what you said what you meant to say);
Organization (is the work logical, both minutely and holistically);
Style (is the writing clear, unambiguous and appropriate to the information);
Technical (mechanics, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length)

**Distribution:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1: Values Argument</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2: Facts and Reason Argument</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 3: Definition Argument</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper (Causal Argument)</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Midterm**

75 points

**Final**

75 points

**Total Possible:** 400 points

Final grades are calculated according to the following scale:

- 380-400 = A
- 336-347 = B
- 296-307 = C
- 256-267 = D
- 360-379 = A-
- 320-335 = B-
- 280-295 = C-
- 240-255 = D-
- 348-359 = B+
- 308-319 = C+
- 268-279 = D+

**General Criteria**

Written work must be typed, double spaced and / or formatted accordingly, and will be graded on the following: Organization and development of your ideas; the ability to guide the reader in understanding what you are writing, professionalism in presentation; demonstrated knowledge of the content, parameters and methodologies of the paper and the application of that knowledge. Papers should be approximately 3000 - 3500 words in length exclusive of the bibliography (and they must have a bibliography). **NOTE:** There are only four papers due for the term; however, those four papers must be flawless. Because entire arguments can and do fail due to poor editing, lack of sound research, or simple sloppiness, the assignments are graded meticulously.

**Essays:**

All essays are due before the start of class on the scheduled date. **Please Note: I use both a university based and net-based plagiarism search program. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.** Your textbook has examples for all the essays due in this class.

**Workshops:**

Bring in hard copy rough drafts of your papers for editing with me or in the Writing Lab. These editing process workshops will prove invaluable to you.
**Writing Lab**
Every composition student is required by the department to visit the writing lab at least once during the term. The lab is available for assistance with any paper for any class. Hours and location will be announced.

**Midterm and Finals**
The midterm and final exams will consist of writing an argumentative essay on a topic given to you that day.

**Grade Appeals**
Should you question your final grade for this course, there is a method for appeal. First, write a letter to me being specific about the problem. State your reasons for the appeal and the evidence you have supporting it. If, after this, the situation has not been resolved to your satisfaction please write a letter of appeal to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education. Again, in this letter be specific and include relevant details. That Office will examine the file after its review by the College Grade Appeals Committee. The decision by the Office of the Associate Provost is final.

**Your grade is not about your politics**

I intend to promote in this class an environment that has as a core value the treatment of all people with dignity and respect. I expect to hold others and myself to behaviors that support that goal, which, in fact, one might call a political goal. As with all courses, however, I will base my evaluation of your work on your analytic approach to the material we study and to the problems assigned, not on the political values that may come out in them. This class is urged to be aware of, and sensitive to, the social implications of language and to seek wording free of discriminatory overtones.
### III. Student Learning Outcomes / Performance Objectives

#### Outcome Based Assessment Indicators For Your Paper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Topic</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>This Paper:</strong> Introduces the topic – Introduction of the Problem</td>
<td>Strongly Agree: ✓✓✓ Agree: ✓✓ Disagree: ✓ Strongly Disagree: ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States the key issues dealing with the topic - Problem Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviews literature in the field related to the topic and the key issues therein – Review of The Literature In The Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posits what you consider to be the central answer to the issues you seek to address – Research Hypothesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explains how and with what sources the central answer can be addressed or is addressed and provides a conclusive support of the answers you reach – Research Procedures and Research Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ends with a summation of findings and possible venues for further exploration – Research Conclusion and Heuristic Prospects for Further Inquiry</td>
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The Paper (Mark one or more as appropriate):

- **Detail-oriented**
- Scholarly, Properly Annotated and yet easy to read
- Tackles complex issues without losing the bigger picture
- It’s the kind of paper I would want to write

Overall Final Grade

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<th>Numerical:</th>
<th>Letter:</th>
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#### Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>Research writing</th>
<th>Knowledge of Communication matrices</th>
<th>Examining case studies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative writing</td>
<td>Understand cultural, corporate and organizational writing</td>
<td>Committees and groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and legalities</td>
<td>Understand obligations to employer, the public, conduct</td>
<td>Class discussion, simulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argument creation</td>
<td>Understand patterns unique to individual documents</td>
<td>Submission of assigned documents</td>
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**Note:** All readings refer to *Everything’s an Argument* (3rd ed). *The Pocket Style Manual* is a reference book to be used in the creation of your papers. Please bring both books to class.

**Please remember:** All work must be submitted via e-mail on or before the due date as an attachment in a text program (i.e. Word). Make sure your name and e-address are on the assignment itself.

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1 Be mechanically flawless, properly annotated using a standard scholarly convention and include therefore section and section headings with an introduction, a conclusion, a bibliography – and abstract.
**Policy on Plagiarism and Screening for Plagiarism:** An act of plagiarism (defined on p. 56 of the University catalog as “Any passing off of another’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own”) is considered to be a violation of the University’s Student Code of Conduct and Ethics: Academic and will be addressed using the Policies and Procedures outlined on pages 57-58 of the University’s 2005-2006 catalog. The instructor in this course reserves the right to use computerized detection systems to help prevent plagiarism. Currently, Alliant International University subscribes to Turnitin.com for purposes of plagiarism screening. By enrolling in this course, students agree that all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. Please note that any assignments or course documents submitted to this service will be included as source documents for the restricted access database of Turnitin.com which is exclusively used for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. You may indicate in writing to the instructor by the end of the add/drop deadline for this course that you refuse to participate in the Turnitin.com process, in which case the instructor can use other means to verify the originality of your work. Material identified as plagiarized will be dealt with pursuant to University’s Student Code of Conduct and Ethics: Academic. Penalties for plagiarism can be severe, up to and including expulsion from the University.

**Class Schedule**

*Please remember:* All assignments must be uploaded to the course Moodle site on or before the due date.

- **Week 1**  Introductions / discuss syllabus and class procedures / Entry Inventory Assessment / Discussions
- **Week 2**  Read 3-24, 27-47, 367-383, 52-75, 80-85, 88-97, 121-144
- **Week 3**  Rough draft of Values Essay due / Read 424-453
- **Week 4**  Values Essay due / Read 100-117, 174-189
- **Week 5**  Rough draft of Facts and Reason Essay due / Read 205-218, 376-383
- **Week 6**  Midterm Exam / Read 712-717 / Facts and Reason Essay due
- **Week 7**  Read 239-247, 263-273, 147-159
- **Week 8**  Read 285-327, 718-727, 768-772
- **Week 9**  Read 348-361 / Rough draft of Definition Essay due
- **Week 10**  Read 385-399, 401-419, 461
- **Week 11**  Read 477-478, 546-555 / Definition Essay Due
- **Week 12**  Read 486-489, 506-507, 525-526
- **Week 13**  Rough draft of Research Paper due / Read 528-530, 654-658, 660-666
- **Week 14**  Defense of Research paper
- **Week 15**  Finalized rough draft of Research Paper due / Read 682-684, 559-561, 649-652
- **Week 16**  Research Paper due (Causal Essay) / Final Exam / Exit Inventory Assessment