English 103
Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking
Course Syllabus, spring 2019
Section 5133 (Online)

Professor Nita Gopal

Professor’s Contact Information

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Google Voice: (510) 999-6482 (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays--10:00 am to 5:00 pm); If I don't pick up, please leave a message.
EMAILING YOUR PROFESSOR: Please feel free to email me any time, but do give me a maximum of 24 hours to respond. Repeat emails are fine if I haven’t responded. We’ll also practice an email-free day (Saturday), which I’ll announce on Canvas.

Course Description

This is an advanced composition course that focuses on the techniques and principles of argumentation and offers instruction in analytical evaluation of texts, research strategies, and proper documentation. We’ll examine style, diction, inference, evidence, reasoning, and rhetorical strategies of written argument. Students are required to write a minimum of 8,000 words, at least 6,000 of which must be in essays that have a developed thesis. Field trips might be required.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 101

Requisite Skills

Before entering the course, the student will be able to do the following:

A. Demonstrate the ability to read and think critically;
B. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and articulate the credibility of print and online sources;
C. Demonstrate the legitimate use of scholarly sources by
   1) summarizing and paraphrasing sources;
   2) synthesizing multiple sources;
   3) Integrating source ideas with his or her own ideas;
   4) Avoiding plagiarism by documenting sources according to MLA conventions.
D. Write papers that
   1) Demonstrate the use of expository and argumentative or persuasive forms of writing;
   2) Are correctly formatted according to MLA conventions;
   3) Demonstrate competent control over written language, including syntax, punctuation, grammar, and spelling;
   4) Show evidence of drafting, revising, and editing to reflect an academic style and tone.
Requirements

1. Follow the order and completion of readings and assignments as designed by the instructor
2. Participate in class discussions according to the rules of netiquette
3. Actively participate in collaborative activities such as blogs and wikis
4. Use internet tools as and when requested by the teacher (example: Google drive)
5. If hesitant to use a computer camera, then substitute with an avatar (I’ll explain as we go along)
6. Have no missing essays
7. Log in as often as possible to stay on top of announcements and assignments; a minimum login of twice a week is expected.
8. Be ready to spend nine-ten hours per week on this class’s coursework. We will read about fifty pages per week (excluding your own research reading).
9. You must be the sole author and editor of all your work in this class. (Read below MJC’s rules on plagiarism).

Student Learning Objectives

a) Critically read and compare complex texts with emphasis on analyzing and evaluating the major parts of an argument, including claim, support, and counterargument.
b) Establish and defend an argumentative thesis in essays that demonstrate advanced, argumentative forms of writing; demonstrate advanced control over written language, including syntax, punctuation, grammar, and spelling
c) Demonstrate understanding of formal and informal fallacies in language and thought and avoid use of common fallacies.
d) Identify a text's premises and assumptions in various social, cultural, and historical contexts.
e) Analyze and employ logical and structural methods such as inductive and deductive reasoning, cause and effect, and appeals to logos, ethos, and pathos.
f) Find, analyze, interpret, and evaluate primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays, explaining their relevance to assigned works, and using appropriate documentation without plagiarism
Course Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the major parts of an argument such as claim, support, and counterargument;
2. Fairly and effectively summarize argumentative texts, frame quotations, and clearly distinguish one’s opinions from others’ views while avoiding plagiarism;
3. Compose grammatically and logically proficient argumentative essays that incorporate an established thesis, support, counterargument, and refutation while avoiding logical fallacies.

This course also meets the General Education requirement for Area D2 - Communication & Analytical Thinking. So in addition to the specific course learning outcomes listed above, as a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in LANGUAGE AND RATIONALITY by demonstrating awareness of the interactive nature of communication involving effective listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in LANGUAGE AND RATIONALITY by demonstrating the ability to find, evaluate, and use information in a variety of formats.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in LANGUAGE AND RATIONALITY by demonstrating critical thinking in the analysis and production of communication.

Required Texts and Materials

- Online articles and teachings posted by your professor
Recommended Texts and Materials

- Dictionary and thesaurus for daily work
- A reference book on the art of argument that includes the three forms of appeal, inductive and deductive reasoning, and logical fallacies. I’ll provide you most information online, but it might be good for students to have a little extra information on the side.

Course Policies

Attendance/ Participation (How will this affect your grade?)

1. If I see 0% activity at the end of the first 48 hours of the first day of school, I have the right to and the option of dropping the student from this course as a “no show” just the way it’s done in face-to-face classes.

2. Weekly participation activities in the form of discussion postings and other make up 7-9% of the overall grade. Every participation activity (typically titled as “discussions”) is worth 10 points. Participation activities are a form of pre-writing and collaborative learning. We’ll write about 3000 words during discussion/participation activities. Don’t miss these as these are practically free points where mistakes don’t lead to a loss of points. The goal is to participate energetically and benefit from collective thinking.

3. If you do not log in for two weeks or more, I have the right to and the option of dropping you from this class, but I’ll do my best to contact you and see if there’s something I can do to help you stay and finish the class.

4. If you do not participate in any activity for three weeks (even if you simply log in and exit without demonstrating any learning), I have the right to and the option of dropping you from this class, but I’ll do my best to contact you and see if there’s something I can do to help you stay and finish the class.

5. Class etiquette: Please refer to the online etiquette (called “netiquette”) in Canvas.

6. If you miss a lesson or an activity or an assignment date, don’t panic, and most of all, don’t give up hope. We’ll all help each other succeed. You can email me, you can post your problem on the Q & A board, and/or you can go back to the learning modules and look things over again. The idea is to reset and move forward.
Assignments: Honesty, Timeliness, and Presentation

Honesty: Your assignment must be your own. I value your opinion and your words in your papers. Your writing must NEVER be a reproduction of someone else's ideas or words. Make a clear distinction between what you're saying and what your sources are saying. Plagiarism or cheating on an exam/paper will earn you an F on that exam or paper. When in doubt about writing a paper, please contact me. Please read the topic "Academic Integrity" written below this section.

Timeliness: Timeliness: All assignments and discussion postings are created with due dates. The discussion forums go by a posting date because without a target date, we’ll never get through our curriculum. If a make-up policy is possible, I’ll announce that on Canvas. Every essay has a two-day grace period. For example, if an essay is due on a Tuesday, you could even submit it by the end of that week’s Thursday. Now, if you submit by the due date, aha--you could win a couple of extra points on your essay. Those who submit past the due date but within the grace period will not lose points, but those who submit past even the grace period can do so because submissions will stay open. But I have the right to take away some points. Fair?

If you have an emergency, please contact me. The rules indicated above are meant for fairness and for keeping the course moving forward; however, if you happen to face an emergency, please contact me, and let me know what’s going on. I’ll make a decision based on your specific situation.

Presentation: All essay assignments must be typed and double-spaced. You'll lose points if you do not follow the above indicated procedure. You must follow the MLA style of formatting, documenting, and listing for all typed writing.

COMPLETION OF EVERY ESSAY ASSIGNMENT IS NECESSARY TO PASS THIS CLASS. FAILURE TO TURN IN ANY OF THE ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS COULD RESULT IN FAILURE OF THIS CLASS!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please read through the information in this link:
http://www.mjc.edu/studentservices/freedomintegrity.php
Violations of Academic Integrity

The Academic Senate at MJC shares the original jurisdiction for conduct violations in the area of academic integrity. The Academic Senate at MJC has defined academic integrity and identified possible means for maintaining academic integrity at the College. The following are violations of academic integrity.

- **Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise; misrepresenting or non-reporting of pertinent information in all forms of work submitted for credit.
- **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** - Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.
- **Plagiarism** - The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one's own, without acknowledgement. This includes all group work and written assignments.

Consequences of Violations

- The grading of a student's work rests on the fundamental idea that an instructor is evaluating a student's own work, so cheating or plagiarism demonstrates a failure to complete this most basic requirement of any course. Thus, a faculty member may administer academic consequences for violating the Academic Integrity Policy ranging from partial credit to an 'F' on the assignment or exam.
- The instructor may also consider that a student's violation of academic integrity should be a consideration for disciplinary measures. Disciplinary action for violating academic integrity is administered by the Student Discipline Officer under Board Policy & Procedure 5500 Standards of Conduct.
GRADING

Grades are weighted in this class.

- Essay 1: 20%
- Essay 2: 25%
- Essay 3: 28%
- Essay 4: 18-20%
- Discussions: 7-9%

For details on how grades are calculated and the grading scale, please access the item titled “How are grades calculated?” in the “Start Here” module.

Note: The above percentages allotted for the various assignments could change as the semester progresses.

Netiquette

1. Every word you say in cyber space is captured and concreted. Please remember that though you don't actually see the other person (classmates or instructor), you're speaking to a human. Would you say what you say online when you're face-to-face or in a physical classroom? How would you feel if you were in the other person's shoes? Shouldn't we all do our best to be sensitive to our fellow beings? How can we "connect" if we are rude or unconcerned about others?

I stress positive interaction between classmates.

Please adhere to the following "core rules of netiquette"
(http://www.albion.com/netiquette/introduction.html)

1. Remember the human.
2. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life.
3. Know where you are in cyber space.
4. Respect other people's time and bandwidth
5. Make yourself look good online.
7. Help keep flame wars under control. In this class, there should be no flaming, absolutely!
8. Respect other people's privacy.
9. Don't abuse your power.
10. Be forgiving of other people's mistakes.
Alert

Failing English 103 is easy. Some common mistakes students make are as follows:

- Poor attendance--meaning--students fail to log in as often as is needed.
- D" or "F" on highly weighted papers and/or exams
- A volatile performance where the average grade is on the brink of a "C" and slips
- Non-adherence to the required word count
- Ignorance of the reading schedule and what's due when
- PLAGIARISM

General Course Content (Very briefly stated here)

- Analyzing the major parts of an argument
- Writing and defending an argumentative thesis using appropriate rhetorical devices
- Identifying and using rhetorically effective and appropriate language in written argument

Note: The above information is simply the basic syllabus. The Canvas Learning modules of this class contain many details that are crucial to your success.