

Basic Course Information

Semester	Winter 2015	Instructor's Name	Christina Shaner
Course Title & #	201 Advanced Composition	Instructor's Email	christina.shaner@imperial.edu
CRN #	15134	Webpage (optional)	Blackboard
Room	2900	Office	2785
Class Dates	1.6.2014 to 2.6.2015	Office Hours	n/a for mini-terms
Class Days	MTWRF	Office Phone #	760-355-6162
Class Times	10:00 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.	Who students should contact if emergency or other absence	Do not contact to inform about unexcused absences within the number allowed.
Units	3		

Course Description

Required language—not written by the professor in this class

Emphasizes critical thinking in reading and writing beyond that achieved in ENGL 110 or ENGL 101. Written argumentation will focus on deduction and induction, an understanding of the fallacies of language and thought, the application of valid evidence, and refutation. (CSU, UC) Prerequisite: ENGL 110 or ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better.

Student Learning Outcomes

Required language—not written by the professor in this class

- Interpret appropriately and analyze a written argument for claim, evidence, reasoning, fallacies, and overall effectiveness. (ILO 1, ILO 2)
- Develop an effective written argument containing a factual claim, providing valid and appropriate evidence, utilizing appropriate reasoning strategies, and avoiding fallacies. (ILO 1, ILO 2, ILO 3)
- Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics. (ILO 3)

Course Objectives

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Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Student will identify the structure of arguments, including the assertions/claims and the proof/support.
- Student will analyze arguments critically, evaluating multiple arguments for validity and soundness, distinguishing fact from judgment and knowledge from opinion, and differentiating relevant from irrelevant support.
- Student will analyze and construct both deductive and inductive arguments.
- Student will write argumentative prose that defines, that analyzes casual relationships, that advocates solutions, that evaluates judgments, and that refutes other arguments.
- Student will identify formal and informal fallacies in language and thought.
- Student will recognize and apply the effects of denotation and connotation; emotive language; and various figures of speech, especially metaphor, within argumentative prose.
- Student will revise written drafts and edit appropriately for an academic audience, observing conventions of coherence, unity, purpose, grammar, mechanics, and documentation.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Aristotle. *On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse*. Trans. George A. Kennedy. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2007. Print. [ISBN #9780195305098]

Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print. [ISBN #9781603290241]

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth*. New York: Vintage, 2000. Print. [ISBN #9780375703867]

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

To begin the semester, you should already have experience identifying the most common logical fallacies and developing sound reason. You should have some skill with analysis of claims and stakeholders. You should have some idea of research methods and evaluation of sources. We will build on this foundation. Since the quality of your writing and thinking depends on the depth and range of your reading, you should expect to engage a variety of texts with some complexity—both for class assignments and as part of independent research.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

All writing projects must be completed and submitted as described in individual assignment sheets. Failure to bring a full and revised draft for workshop will result in a one-letter grade deduction for the essay. Late essays/projects will receive a one-letter grade deduction per day overdue. Each of the four major writing projects may be revised once for an improved grade (unless that grade was the result of an ethics violation); however, any accumulated late-submission or no-draft penalties will remain.

In a college environment it's the student's responsibility to perform whatever extra work is necessary (e.g., vocabulary development, background research) to understand and fulfill the obligations of the course. Your thoroughness, insight, and intellectual curiosity this semester will shape the resulting grade and, more importantly, the reasoning skills you develop.

While you may consult the professor regarding the quality of your work or particular problems you experience, you must monitor your own effort, progress, and points. Points will be based on a one-hundred point scale.

#1 Critical Thinking Essay: 15
#2 Sophistry Essay: 20
#3 Research Annotations: 10
#4 Research Essay: 25
Midterm Exam: 15
Final Exam: 15

Attendance

Required language—not written by the professor in this class

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.*
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.*
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.*

The preceding administrator-produced verbiage is potentially misleading and insufficient for the subject. The following reflects expectations regarding missed work and excused absences:

I expect that each of you will be in class, with a grasp of the reading assignment for the day, and ready to advance class discussion with insightful commentary. If you should miss a class, you must *contact a classmate* (NOT your professor) to request notes. Absence due to required attendance at an IVC-affiliated event will be excused, though the professor must be notified in advance and assignment deadlines must be met. All other absences are unexcused. Students absent the first day will be dropped. Students who accumulate more than two consecutive unexcused absences may be dropped.

Classroom Etiquette

No student may attempt to use this class or its assignments to advocate discriminatory ideology or implement it as a weapon against other students, the professor, or parties/identities not present/represented. Recognizable, historically determined bigotry creates a toxic environment in the classroom and impedes and discourages sound, nuanced reason; self-critique; and, realistic assessment of subject. In other words, it is the antithesis of critical thinking and investigation—our purpose in this class.

Computers, tablets, and phones should be shut off or silenced. If you have advance notice of an emergency situation (such as a sickly child) requiring the need to respond to an anticipated call, notify the professor.

Academic Honesty

Required Language—not written by the professor in this class

- *Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.*
- *Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.*

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

The preceding administrator-produced verbiage is potentially misleading and insufficient in its description of plagiarism and the responses to it. The following reflects a more comprehensive review of plagiarism types and the range of outcomes:

Depending on type and severity, an instance of plagiarism may be addressed with an ungraded revision; a reduced/failing grade for the project; or disciplinary action from administrative staff. If you are at all uncertain on the issue of plagiarism, show me your source materials and explain your research methodology before submitting the essay. Do not solicit “help” from personal acquaintances. Instances of plagiarism can occur through contact with faculty unaware of professional ethics or plagiarism standards.

- **False Authorship.** Obtaining by any means another's work, and using that work in an essay/assignment presented for a grade. False authorship includes texts copied with minor changes/adjustments, translation from another language without acknowledgement, and patchwriting several sources into one document.
- **Misrepresentation of Source.** Distorting or altering the meaning of a source text in order to support a claim. Falsification of information about the source would also fall into the category of misrepresentation. Most often, students misrepresent the text because of personal bias or inadequate reading skills.
- **Unacknowledged collaboration.** Allowing too much outside influence or re-writing of the student's work. The individual's consent or cooperation is irrelevant.
- **Recycling.** Submitting all or part of a text that was prepared for another assignment/course.
- **Insufficient Citation.** Including quotations or paraphrased content from another's work with faulty, or no, citation. Direct quotations also require quotation marks or, when appropriate, block quote spacing.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Required Language—not written by the professor in this class

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. If you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations, the DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Required Language—not written by the professor in this class

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Course Title and number

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

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Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

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Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

Jan 6	Syllabus & rhetorical key terms	Jan 26	Smith, <i>White Teeth</i>
Jan 7	Review critical thinking excerpts	Jan 27	Smith, <i>White Teeth</i>
Jan 8	Classical rhetoric background	Jan 28	Submit #3
Jan 9	Submit #1 / bring <i>On Rhetoric</i>	Jan 29	Smith, <i>White Teeth</i>
		Jan 30	Submit #4
Jan 12	Aristotle, <i>On Rhetoric</i> (book 1)	Feb 2	Plato & Gorgias (bring <i>On Rhetoric</i>)
Jan 13	Aristotle, <i>On Rhetoric</i> (book 2)	Feb 3	Fallacy identification
Jan 14	Fallacies & propaganda	Feb 4	Submit #1-4 Revisions
Jan 15	Review of text for #2	Feb 5	Midterm review
Jan 16	Review of text for #2	Feb 6	Final Exam
Jan 19	MLK Holiday		
Jan 20	Isocrates, “Against the Sophists” & <i>Antidosis</i>		
Jan 21	Submit #2 / ideology & hegemony		
Jan 22	Midterm Exam		
Jan 23	Research practicum		