

## Rhetorical Myths: The Power of Persuasion

**CRN:** 11322  
**English K101:** Composition Rm D128  
**Term:** Spring 09  
**Schedule:** F 8-10:45  
**Instructor:** Fredrick-Douglass Knowles (Prof. K)  
**Office Hours:** TBA

**Email:** [fknowles@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:fknowles@trcc.commnet.edu)

### Required Text:

- Colombo, Gary, Robert Cullen and Bonnie Lisle. Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing. 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. Boston: Bedford /St. Martins, 2007.
- Faigley, Lester. The Brief Penguin Handbook. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Pearson-Longman, 2009.

### Recommended Text:

- Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2003.

### Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the importance of writing and to develop their critical thinking, reading and writing skills. The class will focus on the writing of argumentative essays, often in response to complex readings. This course will emphasize the necessity of revision as means of producing college level writing. Intensive library and research techniques are an integral part of this course.

### Objectives:

- Apply critical thinking and reading skills
- Show confidence in written expression
- Master writing as a process
- Refine writing mechanics
- Demonstrate confidence in MLA style citation, quotation, paraphrase and works cited entries

### Measurable Outcomes:

In order to complete the course with a grade of “C” or better you must:

- Compose a minimum of 6,000 words (24 pages total for the semester) of typed, revised, and prose
- Produce drafts evidencing a variety of prewriting techniques
- Develop a main idea expressed in a thesis statement
- Support a main idea with specific details
- Use a variety of rhetorical patterns
- Organize ideas with attention to transitions
- Support thesis with logical thinking and sources
- Improve drafts with substantial editing and revision
- Incorporate appropriate diction, sentence variety, grammar and mechanics
- Select, synthesize and accurately document sources
- Show evidence of library and electronic research techniques documented using MLA

### **Course Requirements:**

The course is designed to provide a healthy, productive learning atmosphere in which the individual's oral and written thoughts, ideas and voice is not only heard but respected. Students are expected to engage in discussion to express various perspectives regarding subject matter. Students will be required to participate in classroom writing assignments, workshops, and media activities. Since the course is aim to improve argumentative writing skills students are expected to complete assignments and provide critical feedback to peers during the revision process. The nature of the course will feed off the energy of the material, instructor and students. Each component will contribute to the effectiveness of the course throughout the semester.

### **Assignments and Grade Percentage:**

Questions:	10%
Response Papers	15%
In-Class participation:	20%
Essay Exam 1:	25%
Essay Exam 2:	30%

### **Attendance:**

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the college experience. The faculty of the college believes that regular class attendance is necessary for a student to derive the maximum benefit from the learning experience and the overall value of the classroom instruction. The instructor reserves the right to issue an "F" if a student has more absences per semester than the number of times the class meets per week. There are some degree and certificate programs with special attendance policies that must be satisfied due to licensing requirements. Students should refer to the program handbooks. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in the event of an absence.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

To receive accommodations in class a student must make an appointment with the Learning Disability Specialists, Mr. Chris Scarborough or Judy Hilburger who will

justify the special modifications that are needed to facilitate learning for the student. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me for help.

**Academic Honesty / Plagiarism Policy:**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' Proscribed Policy in section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees' Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration of assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea (s) or phrase(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally. If you are caught plagiarizing I will dismiss you from the class with a zero grade and report you to the dean.

**Withdrawal Policy:**

The last day to withdraw from this course is May 11. If you must withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to go to the Registrar's office and fill out the correct form. If you are thinking about withdrawing, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible.

**Class Cancellation Procedure:**

If class is cancelled or delayed because of the weather, certain radio and television stations will carry an announcement. If I am unable to attend class, the Arts & Humanities Division Office will advise students of alternate learning activities.

**Late Work:**

Students are required to hand in all work, typed and on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time is considered late. Students will have a 24 hour grace period to hand in late work which will receive 50% reduction. Response papers and questions will automatically be deducted by 10 pts. Students are to deliver a copy to my mailbox in the English dept labeled "late work" in the upper left hand corner with the date. After 24 hrs, **no late work** will be accepted and students will receive a **zero** for the assignment. No emails of late work will be accepted.

**Engaging the Text Questions:**

Students are required to answer the "engaging the text" section of questions located after each assigned reading for 10 pts. Questions must be typed and answered in complete sentences providing critical analysis of the subject matter. Students are only required to answer this section unless otherwise specified. Questions are to follow all MLA guidelines

**Response Papers:**

Students are required to hand in a 2 (full) page response paper on assigned reading. Response papers are to be typed in Times Roman font, 12 pt. and stapled. They are to also follow MLA guidelines. Papers that do not follow the above guidelines will **not** be accepted. Response papers are **not summaries**. They are a critical analysis of the

reading. Response papers should reflect how you, the reader reacts or responds to a particular argument; or overall response to the author's topic (thesis). Students are required to complete 2 drafts of response papers for each author assigned. Each draft will consist of 20 pts, for a total of 40.

### **Essay Exams**

Students will be responsible of completing 2 essay exams (mid-term and a final) which will consist of a 5-7 (full) page essay practicing the components of an argumentative essay using the Toulmin model and MLA guidelines. Essays will be counted as exams and therefore must be handed in on assigned dates. Essays that are not will receive a zero. There are no submissions of late essay exams. No exceptions.

### **Course Schedule:**

#### **Week 1:**

1/23 review syllabus / intro to critical thinking, reading and writing  
Toulmin model and components of argumentative essay

### **Myth of freedom**

#### **Week 2:**

1/30 Land of Liberty p755, “/ “America the Beautiful: What We’re Fighting For,” D’souza p768; questions due Response paper review

#### **Week 3:**

2/6 “The Oblivious Empire,” Hertsgaard p781; questions due  
/ discussion

#### **Week 4:**

2/13 1<sup>st</sup> draft Hertsgaard response paper due bring 2 copies to class  
Essay structure activity / intro to law & order

#### **Week 5:**

2/20 “In Torture We Trust,” Press p814 / Discussion / Law & order activity on  
Press / film intro

#### **Week 6:**

2/27 Film / 2nd draft Hertsgaard response paper due  
Essay Exam 1 guidelines

#### **Week 7:**

3/6 Quiz / Essay structure review / peer edit in class full draft due

#### **Week 8:**

3/13 in class activity / Mid-Term Exam Essay 1 due

Week 9: Spring Break/ No classes

Week 10:  
3/27 student conferencing

### **Myth of the Melting Pot**

Week 11:  
4/3 Created Equal p481 and /“Discharging a Debt,” Close p492 questions due/  
discussion

Week 12:  
4/10 “CP Ellis,” Terkel p519 questions due /discussion / quiz

Week 13:  
4/17 1<sup>st</sup> draft Terkel response paper due  
Bring 2 copies to class / in class activity/ law & order prep

Week 14:  
4/24 law & order / film intro / essay exam 2 guidelines

Week 15:  
5/1 Film / 2<sup>nd</sup> Terkel draft response paper due/

Week 16:  
5/8 peer edit

Week 17  
5/15 Essay Exam 2 due

**\*Course Syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change**

