

## Rhetorical Myths: The Power of Persuasion

**CRN:** 30214  
**English K101:** Composition (Rm E225)  
**Term:** Fall 09  
**Schedule:** MWF 2:00 – 2:50  
**Instructor:** Fredrick-Douglass Knowles (Prof. K)  
**Office Hours:** MW 12-1, T 1-2 Rm C120 Phone: 383-5271  
**Email:** [fknowles@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:fknowles@trcc.comnet.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 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 December 9. 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 **work** on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time is considered late (assignment are due on the date stipulated on the syllabus). Students will have a 24 hour grace period to hand late work, after 24 hours, **no late essays** will be accepted and students will receive a **zero** for the assignment. Students will have a 24 hour grace period to hand in late work which will receive 50% reduction. Response papers will automatically be deducted by 10 pts. and questions by 5. Students are to deliver a copy to my office C120 (slide underneath door) stamped with date & time, if not stamped they will not be accepted. **No emails of essays 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 (a minimum of 5 sentences per question) 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 **Full 2** 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:

8/26 w class intro: review syllabus  
8/28 f intro to critical thinking, reading and writing

### Week 2:

8/31 m intro to Toulmin model and components of argumentative essay  
9/2 w discussion con't / quiz  
9/4 f in class activity on argumentative essay structure / response paper review

## Myth of Freedom

### Week 3

9/7 m Labor Day No classes  
9/9 w Land of Liberty p755 & "America the Beautiful: What We're Fighting For,"  
D'souza p768; questions due  
9/11 f "The Oblivious Empire," Hertsgaard p781; questions

### Week 4

9/14 m discussion con't  
9/16 w 1<sup>st</sup> draft Hertsgaard response paper due bring 2 copies to class  
9/18 f intro to law & order

### Week 5

9/21 m class prep for law and order  
9/23 w in class activity: law & order / 2<sup>nd</sup> draft response paper due  
9/25 f "In Tortute We Trust," Press p814 questions due

### Week 6

9/28 m discussion con't / 1<sup>st</sup> Press draft response paper due  
9/30 w law & order  
10/2 f intro to film / essay 1 guidelines

### Week 7

10/5 m movie / 2<sup>nd</sup> draft due  
10/7 w movie  
10/9 f movie / discussion

### Week 8

10/12 m peer edit in class: full draft due  
10/14 w peer edit in class: full draft due  
10/16 f **Mid-term exam essay: 1 due**

### Week 9

10/19 m student conferencing  
10/21 w student conferencing  
10/23 f student conferencing

### Myth of the Melting Pot

#### Week 10

10/26 m Created Equal p481-485 & “From Notes on Virginia,” p491 questions due  
 10/28 w “Discharging a Debt,” Close p492 questions due  
 10/30 f discussion con’t / 1<sup>st</sup> draft Close response paper due 2 copies in class

#### Week 11

11/2 m in class activity  
 11/4 w law & order prep / quiz  
 11/6 f law & order activity / 2<sup>nd</sup> draft due

#### Week 12

11/9 m “CP Ellis,” Terkel p519 questions due  
 11/11 w Veterans Day No Classes  
 11/13 f discussion cont’ / 1<sup>st</sup> draft Terkel response paper due

#### Week 13

11/16 m in class activity / 2<sup>nd</sup> draft due  
 11/18 w “Pressure to Cover,” Yoshino p598 questions due  
 11/20 f discussion

#### Week 14

11/23 m in class activity /  
 11/25 w law & order  
 11/27 f Thanksgiving No classes

#### Week 15

11/30 m film / essay exam 2 guidelines  
 12/2 w film  
 12/4 f film

#### Week 16

12/7 m peer edit  
 12/9 w peer edit  
 12/11 f peer edit

#### Week 17

12/14 m review / evaluation  
 12/16 w **Final essay exam 2 due**

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