

English 185 Critical Reading and Writing
Fall 2010
MWF 08A

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Required Texts: Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*; Krakauer, *Into the Wild*; Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*; Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*.

Objectives: The primary goal in this course is to help you improve your writing skills. You will get practice writing and revising arguments so that eventually you will be skilled in making clear points and supporting them, whether in one paragraph, one page, ten pages, or twenty. You will read complex texts and deal with the ideas in those texts by writing argumentative essays. Reading is as important as writing in this class. You will learn to read texts carefully and fully understand the arguments made by the authors. You will also get experience reading and critiquing one another's writing. The readings and the course project are all organized around the theme of what it means to be a radical. You will be reading various kinds of stories—biography, autobiography, letters, fiction, essay, journalism—and analyzing the arguments within those stories.

Attendance: Attendance in this course is essential for a successful performance. You have a maximum of three absences. You will lose three points from your final grade for any absence after the third. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. How you use your absences is up to your discretion.

If you come to class without having read, you may be asked to leave. I will consider you absent. Showing up without doing the work is pointless, because this is a discussion-based course.

Don't be late to class. If people are consistently late for class, I reserve the right to create a late policy.

Deadlines for Assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. You may turn in only ONE late assignment, and it will receive 3 points off for every day it is late. No assignments may be turned in by email.

Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented using MLA format. Your name on any assignment submitted in this class indicates that you abide by the Oxford College Honor Code and that you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work. It is your responsibility to understand the Honor Code. You can read the Honor Code information in the Oxford College Catalog. If you have any questions about this policy, please ask before you turn in work that isn't your own.

Requirements:

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| - Close reading of the material | - 5 Rhetorical Analyses of 1-2 pages each | I grade on the +/- scale |
| - Class participation | - Daily reading and grammar quizzes | |
| - 1 paper of 4-5 pages | - Research project | |
| - 1 paper of 3-4 pages | | |
| - 3-4 page reflective essay and portfolio | | |

Format For Papers: You will do a draft for each long essay, and that draft will be turned in along with the final, with the final on top. Drafts and peer reviews are part of the final grade so put effort into all parts of the process. All drafts, including the final, must be typed double-spaced and stapled. All essays must have titles, but don't do a title page. Center the title on your first page of the paper. Do not bold, underline, or quote your title. It should be in the same font and size as the rest of the text. **Use secondary sources on the research paper only**, and document them properly. We will discuss the necessary elements for good argument throughout the semester.

Rhetorical Analyses: These are short 1-2 page typed papers on the readings. You should treat them like mini essays with a clear argument articulated in a thesis, organized logically, and well-supported with specific references to the texts. You should spend only one to two sentences summarizing the text, one to two sentences explaining what you plan to argue, and the rest of the paper making a short and concise discussion of one idea in the text. These are designed to make writing the larger papers easier and more familiar. If you can make a clear and well-supported argument in a paragraph, then you can do it in any length paper.

Quizzes: You will have unannounced reading and grammar quizzes. They will be given in the first five minutes of class. If you come later than five minutes after class starts, you will miss the quiz. There will be no make-up quizzes, whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Keep up with the reading, and you will do fine on the quizzes.

Portfolio: As your final exam, you will turn in a reflective essay along with a portfolio containing everything you have written for the class. For this reason, **save all your graded papers and class handouts.**

Final Grades will be based on the following percentages:

10% 3-4 page paper	
15% 4-5 page paper	20% Quizzes and in-class assignments
20% Research Paper	15% Reflective Essay and Portfolio
20% 5 Rhetorical Analyses	

Other things to know:

No laptop computers in class. No Ipods or the like. Turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate.

Throw nothing away.

If I am late and there is no notice at the door, you should wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Prepare the next day's assignments for the next meeting.

Read all written information for this course carefully and take careful notes in class. You are responsible for information about class policies and assignments. If you miss a class, be sure to get all information from your classmates.

I reserve the right to amend or modify anything on this statement by means of future hand-outs.

W	8/25	Introduction to Rhetoric
F	8/27	<i>This Is Water</i> , Wallace
M	8/30	"Letter From Birmingham Jail," King
W	9/1	"Letter From Birmingham Jail." King; RA 1 due
F	9/3	"A Modest Proposal," Swift on Blackboard
M	9/6	Labor Day Holiday
W	9/8	Truss, on ereserve
F	9/10	Truss, on ereserve; RA 1 revised due
M	9/13	Alinsky, to p. 63
W	9/15	Alinsky, to p. 98
F	9/17	Alinsky, to p. 165
M	9/20	Alinsky, to end
W	9/22	Booth, on ereserve
F	9/24	From Camus, <i>The Rebel</i> on ereserve; RA 2 due
M	9/27	Paper 1 Draft due
W	9/29	Krakauer
F	10/1	Krakauer
M	10/4	Paper 1 Final due ; Krakauer
W	10/6	Krakauer
F	10/8	Library Day
M	10/11	Midsemester Break
W	10/13	<i>Rebel Without a Cause</i> ; Source 1 due
F	10/15	<i>Rebel Without a Cause</i> ; RA 3 due
M	10/18	Vonnegut
W	10/20	Vonnegut
F	10/22	Vonnegut; Sources 2 and 3 due
M	10/25	Vonnegut
W	10/27	Vonnegut
F	10/29	Library Day
M	11/1	Stories, TBA; RA 4 due
W	11/3	Stories, TBA; Bibliography due
F	11/5	<i>Garden State</i>
M	11/8	<i>Garden State</i> ; Thesis and Abstract due
W	11/10	Whitman
F	11/12	Research Paper Draft due
M	11/15	Whitman
W	11/17	Whitman
F	11/19	Research Paper Final due ; Whitman
M	11/22	Whitman; RA 5 due
W	11/24	Thanksgiving Break
F	11/26	Thanksgiving Break
M	11/29	Paper #2 Draft due
W	12/1	Dylan on Blackboard
F	12/3	Howl on Blackboard
M	12/6	Paper #2 Final due ; Discuss reflective essay