

**Required Texts:** *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, Sedaris; *Operating Instructions*, Lamott; *Our Town*, Wilder; Texts on reserve and Blackboard.

**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 "stories as argument." You will be reading various kinds of stories—biography, autobiography, letters, fiction, essay, journalism—and analyzing the arguments within those stories.

**TPSL:** This course is a theory-practice-service-learning course. You will be working with students at Newton high school to translate historical documents from Emory's archives into .xml language. You will learn how to do this and then teach the high school students what you've learned. You will be paired for this project with a classmate and two Newton students. This work will lead to your research projects. It will require a few out of class meetings with the students and then participation in a colloquium where you will present your research, along with some of the Newton students and students from Professor Galle's 101 course.

**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.

Missing the meetings with the Newton High students will lose you points from your grade as well.

**Deadlines for Assignments:** Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. I will take off five points from the final grade for every day a paper is late and two points off for every day an RA is late.

**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.

**Requirements:**

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|---|---|---------------------------------|
| - Close reading of the material           | - 8 Rhetorical Analyses of 1-2 pages each | <b>I grade on the +/- scale</b> |
| - Class participation                     | - Daily reading and grammar quizzes       |                                 |
| - 2 papers of 4-5 pages each              | - Research project                        |                                 |
| - 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.

**Research Project:** For your major project for the class, you will be working in groups to put an historical document from Emory's archives into .xml language to be put on the web. To do this, you will be learning .xml language, and you will have to make decisions about the historical importance of certain aspects of the documents. Once you have completed your work, you will write an essay explaining why you made the decisions you did. This project will be explained in more detail in the next few weeks.

**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:**

30% 2 Papers (15% each)	20% Quizzes and in-class assignments
20% Research Paper	10% Reflective Essay and Portfolio
20% 8 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.

## Readings and Assignments

Wed. 8/27	Introduction
Wed. 9/3	Martin Luther King: "Letter From Birmingham Jail" (reserve) Lynne Truss: <i>Eats, Shoots and Leaves</i>
Mon. 9/8	Truss; <b>Group A</b>
Wed. 9/10	Truss (finish); <b>Group B</b>
Mon. 9/15	Jon Krakauer: <i>Into the Wild</i> ; <b>Group A</b>
Wed. 9/17	Krakauer; <b>Group B</b>
Mon. 9/22	Krakauer
Wed. 9/24	Project work day; start Victor Frankl: <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i>
Mon. 9/29	Frankl; <b>Group B</b>
Wed. 10/1	Frankl; <b>Group A</b>
Mon. 10/6	<b>Paper #1 Draft due; peer reviews</b>
Wed. 10/8	<b>Peer Reviews</b>
Fri. 10/10	<b>Paper #1 due</b>
Mon. 10/13	<b>Mid-semester Break: No Class</b>
Wed. 10/15	<b>Library Day</b>
Mon. 10/20	Arnold: <i>History: A Short Introduction</i> (complete); <b>Groups A &amp; B</b>
Wed. 10/22	Joyce Johnson: <i>Door Wide Open</i>
Mon. 10/27	Johnson; <b>Group B</b>
Wed. 10/29	Project work day; <b>Group A</b>
Mon. 11/3	Johnson; <b>Project source 1 due</b>
Wed. 11/5	Essay (TBA)
Fri. 11/7	<b>.xml markup must be complete and posted</b>
Mon. 11/10	<b>Paper #2 Draft due; Peer Reviews</b>
Wed. 11/12	Essay (TBA); <b>Project sources 2 &amp; 3 due</b>
Fri. 11/14	<b>Working bibliography due</b>
Mon. 11/17	<b>Paper #2 due; thesis workshop</b>
Wed. 11/19	David Sedaris: <i>Me Talk Pretty One Day</i> ; <b>Thesis and abstract due</b>
Mon. 11/24	Sedaris; <b>Groups A &amp; B</b>
Wed. 11/26	<b>Thanksgiving Break—No Class</b>
Mon. 12/1	<b>Research project draft due; peer reviews</b>
Wed. 12/3	presentations; <b>RA on Sedaris</b>
Mon. 12/8	<b>Final Project due; Reflective essay work</b>