**How to (maybe) Do Well in this Course:**

1. Read the assigned readings before we discuss them. Otherwise, you will not be able to follow lectures or conversations in class. Plus, demonstrating you’ve done the reading means you’ll likely do well on the assignments.
2. Write while you read. For me this means annotating a text as I read it. You can annotate print and digital texts. (See me if you need ideas or resources.)
3. Come to class with ideas and questions. Be curious. Seek connections not only between texts but also between this course and other courses you’re taking.
4. Take notes during class meetings. A good portion of the course will cover what we talk about in class. Students who take good notes not only understand but also retain the material better. They also do better on assignments than students who do not take notes.
5. Let me know when you don’t follow what I’m saying. I find some of this stuff fascinating, but I will not always know what you want to investigate or learn more about. If you have questions, then please don't hesitate to ask them. There's no need to feel like an imposter in this course.
6. Persuasive writing takes time. Before you submit an essay, consider writing and circulating drafts. Ask friends or peers to give your writing a gander. Come chat with me during office hours. Consider how your writing can extend and even complicate our class discussions. Also, avoid writing that is primarily descriptive. Push your work into an analysis of the assumptions, aesthetics, and ambiguity at work in argumentation.
7. During class and in writing, be concrete when you comment on anyone's work (including the texts we're discussing). Quote it. Speak to specific examples. And then respond with your own interpretations. When the work is by a peer, affirm their ideas (e.g., “I like how you…”).
8. Use class meetings to share ideas, but also discuss what we’re reading outside of class. If you have a question, then ask me or your classmates. If you hear something you want to remember, then write it down for later reference. If you feel like we’re ignoring something important in class, then bring it to our attention. Consider forming reading and writing groups for the course.