

Fall 2015

## ENGL 1158

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In this course you will learn to develop and write persuasive arguments, and to evaluate the arguments of others. You will learn to gather, assess, and arrange evidence, and to produce short argumentative essays in standard academic prose. In order to permit you to focus on the mechanics of writing, several of your arguments will be focused on a single text, William Shakespeare's tragedy *Hamlet*.

During the course of the semester, you will write several argumentative essays in and out of class. To prepare you to write these essays, you will complete several short exercises to improve your research and writing skills. Detailed instructions for completing the exercises and the papers will be handed out in class.

There are two required textbooks: William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, edited by A. R. Braunmuller (ISBN 978-0-14-071454-8) and *Harbrace Essentials*, second edition, by Cheryl Glenn and Loretta Gray (ISBN 978-1-285-44699-8). There will be additional short reading assignments in the form of handouts.

**Grading:** To earn an A in the course, you must turn in all work, and the quality of the work must be excellent. Exams and essays will be largely free from errors; essays written in and out of class will be original, thoughtful, and well-supported. Very good work will earn a B; adequate work a C; sub-standard work a D; work that is plagiarized will earn a zero. Your essays will be graded for form as well as content: errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation will lower your grade. If you have trouble with grammar and spelling, please visit the Writing Center (LA 334) for help with your papers. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will be reported to the university and will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If you choose not to turn in an assignment, you will receive a grade of F for that assignment. I do not accept late papers except in the case of an extreme emergency, which you will be required to document. It is not possible to earn extra credit in this course.

The essays will count for 60% of your final grade; the midterm will count for 20%; short writing assignments not associated with the essays will count for 20% of your grade. Excessive absences will lower your grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will lower your grade. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you will be marked absent even if you eventually show up for class. If you have a legitimate excuse for your absence, please notify me ahead of time, if possible, or immediately upon your return to class. Students who have missed class are responsible for contacting the instructor regarding handouts, and should get class notes from a fellow student. If you have three unexcused absences, I will assume you are no longer interested in the course, and I will report you to the Dean's Office for non-attendance; if you choose to remain in the course, you will lose one letter grade on your final grade for each additional unexcused absence.

### **Classroom Rules**

- Please come to class prepared to discuss that day's reading. Please bring the textbooks to class with you.
- Please be on time for class. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, you will be marked as absent if you are late. If I have collected written work or handed out a quiz, I will not accept these items from those who are late.
- Written work will be collected at the beginning of class on the due date listed on the syllabus. All written work must be handed in on paper and in person; I do not accept papers sent by e-mail.
- I do not accept late papers or give make-up exams except in cases of extreme and documentable emergencies. Please check the syllabus carefully for due dates.
- Please make sure that cell phones, pagers, beeping watches, or other noise-making devices are turned off before class begins. If your phone rings during class, you will be asked to leave the classroom, and this

will count as an unexcused absence. You may not use electronic devices during class. You may not bring guests to class, including children, without the instructor's permission.

- Plagiarism is taking someone else's words and claiming they are your own. Examples of plagiarism include downloading all or part of an essay from an electronic source; turning in an essay you have purchased or borrowed from another writer; or using sources you do not cite and document properly. Do not plagiarize. If you plagiarize or cheat, your grade for that assignment will be zero. Any student with a grade of zero on any assignment will fail the course. I will report all instances of plagiarism to the University for further action. If you need help with your written work, consult with the instructor or visit the Writing Center (LA 334).

**Contact information:** Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the course or your assignments. My office phone number is 280-6113; my office is in room 177 of the Liberal Arts Building; my e-mail is [cloomis@uno.edu](mailto:cloomis@uno.edu). My office hours are MWF 11 to 12; Thursday 3 to 5; and by appointment.

The University of New Orleans requires that each course syllabus contain the following notices:

*\* Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.*

*\*\* It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.*

## Syllabus

August 19	Introduction
August 21	<i>Harbrace Essentials (HE)</i> , Chapter 1 Handout: First essay topic
August 24	<i>HE</i> , Chapter 2 Handouts: Short essays on Louisiana Brain Drain WRITE: Thesis statement for first essay
August 26	<i>HE 3</i> , pages 10 to 18 WRITE: Draft outline of first essay
August 28	<i>HE 8</i> WRITE: Three contrasting paragraphs (cause and consequence; compare/contrast; description) in support of your thesis; at least one paragraph must incorporate an outside source
August 31	<i>HE 3</i> , pages 18-21 WRITE: Revised outline listing outside evidence
September 2	<i>HE 6 AND 33</i> WRITE: Three transition sentences linking your paragraphs

- September 4 *HE 5 AND 31*  
WRITE: Paragraph incorporating **quotations** with proper citations
- September 7 Labor Day Holiday—Class does not meet
- September 9 *HE 9*  
Writing Center Tour
- September 11 *HE 10 and 11*  
WRITE: Paragraph incorporating **data** with proper citations
- September 14 *HE 12 AND 32*  
WRITE: Works Cited Page (using *HE 13*)
- September 16 Research and revision day—class does not meet
- September 18 *HE 34 and 38*  
WRITE: FIRST ESSAY DUE
- September 21 Introduction to *Hamlet*  
READ: “The Theatrical World” and “Introduction”
- September 23 *HE 17*  
*Hamlet*, Act 1, scene 1 (1.1)  
WRITE: One paragraph argument regarding the existence of ghosts
- September 25 *HE 28*  
*Hamlet*, Act 1, scene 2
- September 28 *HE 29*  
*Hamlet* 1.3  
WRITE: One paragraph argument regarding calling a step-parent “Mom” or “Dad”
- September 30 *HE 30*  
*Hamlet* 1.4  
WRITE: One paragraph argument regarding obeying a parent who tells you to break up with your partner
- October 2 *Hamlet* 1.5  
*HE 18*  
WRITE: A one-sentence thesis for ESSAY 2
- October 5 *Hamlet* 2.1  
*HE 19*
- October 7 Midterm Exam
- October 9 *Hamlet* 2.2  
*HE 20*

- October 12 *Hamlet* 2.2 (continued)  
*HE* 21 a-b  
WRITE: Outline of argument for ESSAY 2
- October 14 *Hamlet* 3.1  
*HE* 21 c-d  
A one paragraph argument regarding whether or not Hamlet should commit suicide
- October 16 Fall break—class does not meet
- October 19 *Hamlet* 3.2  
*HE* 21 e-f  
WRITE: Opening paragraph for ESSAY 2
- October 21 *Hamlet* 3.2 (continued)  
WRITE: A two-paragraph newspaper review of the play-within-a-play
- October 23 *Hamlet* 3.3  
*HE* 22  
WRITE: A one paragraph argument about whether or not Hamlet should kill Claudius at prayer
- October 26 WRITE: SECOND ESSAY DUE
- October 28 Research and revision day—class does not meet  
READ: *HE* 4
- October 30 Research and revision day—class does not meet
- November 2 WRITE: REVISION OF SECOND ESSAY DUE
- November 4 *Hamlet* 3.4
- November 6 *Hamlet* 3.4 (continued)  
WRITE: A condolence letter to Hamlet, using the voice of someone else in the play
- November 9 *HE* 9  
*Hamlet* 4.1 AND 4.2  
WRITE: Thesis sentence for ESSAY 3
- November 11 *HE* 23  
*Hamlet* 4.3 AND 4.4
- November 13 *HE* 24 AND 25  
*Hamlet* 4.5  
WRITE: Opening paragraph for ESSAY 3
- November 16 *HE* 26 AND 27  
*Hamlet* 4.6
- November 18 *Hamlet* 4.7  
WRITE: Outline for ESSAY 3

November 20 *Hamlet* 5.1

WRITE: Two paragraphs, one FOR and one AGAINST the proposition that Ophelia should be buried in consecrated ground

November 23 WRITE: ESSAY 3 DUE

November 25 *Hamlet* 5.2

WRITE: A one paragraph argument for or against killing Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

Handouts: "College Grade Inflation"; "Why Colleges Shower their Students with A's"

November 27 Thanksgiving break—class does not meet

November 30 *Hamlet* 5.2

Handouts: "Why Some Students Need to Fail"; "Why Teachers Secretly Hate Grading Papers"

WRITE: A one paragraph argument for or against stopping Gertrude from drinking the poison

December 2 Handouts: "College is no Guarantee of an Education"; "Making the Grade"

December 4 FINAL ESSAY DUE

## Style Sheet

1. All papers must be turned in on time and in person.
2. All papers must be of the required length.
3. All papers must be typed (in black ink; on white paper) and stapled. Do not use folders or plastic covers.
4. The Title Page
  - The title should be centered on the page
  - Your name, the course, and the date should be in the lower right corner
  - Your title should be in the same size and font of type as the rest of the paper
  - Do not put quotation marks around your title unless the title IS a quotation
  - Capitalize the first word and each substantive word in your title
5. Your first page
  - Should not have a header or a footer that includes your name
  - Should not be numbered
  - Should have a 1-1/2 inch TOP margin
  - Should have one inch margins on all other sides
  - Should be DOUBLE SPACED
6. All other inside pages
  - Should have one-inch margins all around
  - Should be DOUBLE SPACED
  - Should be numbered; numbering starts with page 2 which should have the number 2
  - Should not have a header or footer that includes your name
7. Quoting
  - All direct quotations must go in quotation marks and must be followed by a parenthetical citation identifying the page number on which the quotation is found in the source you are quoting from.
  - Make the quotation fit your sentence grammatically. If this means leaving words out, indicate their absence by an ellipsis (...). If this means adding words, do so in [square brackets].
  - If a quotation is five typed lines or longer, isolate the quotation by embedding it (indent five spaces on both sides). An embedded quotation does not have opening and closing quotation marks. It must be followed by a parenthetical citation.
  - When quoting a POEM, cite the line numbers in parentheses after the quotation. When citing a PLAY, cite the act, scene, and line number (s) in parentheses after the quotation. Do not cite a play or a poem by page number.
  - When quoting more than one but fewer than five lines of poetry, use a slash mark to indicate the line break. When citing five or more lines, embed the quotation and use the exact line breaks of the original source.
  - All works from which you quote must be listed in alphabetical order by author's last name on a works cited page. Use MLA format.
8. General rules
  - Indicate a new paragraph EITHER by indenting five spaces OR by skipping an extra space between paragraphs. Do not do both. Microsoft Word automatically does both; you will need to disable this feature.
  - Academic writing should be clear, concise, and formal. Avoid clichés.
  - Write in complete sentences using the active voice.
  - Keep summary in the present tense.
  - End all questions with a question mark.
  - Avoid run-on sentences and comma splices; if you do not know what these terms mean, consult a grammar handbook.
  - The titles of long works (plays, movies, novels, epic poems, television series, collections) and newspaper and magazine names should be *italicized*. The titles of short works (short poems, short stories, individual episodes of a television series, articles, essays) go in quotation marks.
  - Leave yourself time to proofread.
  - Be proud of your work.