

Fall 2015

ENGL 1158

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University of New Orleans

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CRAFTING ARGUMENT

ENGLISH 1158-21
FALL 2015
9:00 – 10:45 am, TTH
LA 306

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Office hours: Mon. 12-1pm, Tue. 3-5pm,
Wed. 3-5 pm, Fri. 9-10 am

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS (BRING TO EACH CLASS):

The Curious Writer (2nd UNO custom edition) by Bruce Ballenger

Dictionary of your choice (must be made of paper)

Pens, pencils, notebook, folder, paper

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this course is to help you build upon the writing skills you have already developed. In English 1157, you may have written in genres such as narrative, profile, ethnography, or review. In this class, English 1158, we will practice and explore the craft of persuasive writing, or argument. By argument, we mean more than cable news channel arguing or internet trolling. What we'll look at over the next fifteen weeks is the large, complicated process of figuring how to articulate your beliefs so that your readers listen, comprehend, and consider your point of view. Presenting an argument (though often emotionally charged) is most successful when accompanied by research and a respectful tone. Thus, in this course, we'll learn to perform research, find scholarly sources to back ourselves up, and practice *respectful* opposition of other perspectives.

The process of writing your essays and projects will include a number of activities: critical reading, pre-writing, evaluating your audience, determining your purpose, developing a thesis, writing drafts, incorporating sources, refining your thesis, revising your draft, editing your prose, and proofreading. Your final projects and essays should be interesting, thoughtful, well-written pieces of college-level prose. You will complete a series of connected, scaffolded assignments leading up to each of our three major projects; each part will make up the whole of your project.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successfully completing this course, you should be proficient in:

Rhetorical Knowledge

- Determine purpose and audience in their own and others' writing
- Understand how purpose, audience, and context affect writing style, voice, and tone
- Apply appropriate rhetorical strategies for diverse writing situations
- Demonstrate familiarity with and/or compose in different genres (such as editorial writing, personal narratives, reviews, satires, dialogues, letters, or profile essays)
- Demonstrate familiarity with and/or incorporate different media (such as power point presentations, web pages, pod casts, or visual essays)

Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing

- Analyze and/or interpret texts and other forms of discourse in multiple genres
- Use logical reasoning
- Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and respond to the ideas of others
- Understand writing as a process that involves invention, drafting, collaboration, and revision
- Identify and incorporate persuasive techniques
- Write informative, analytical, and persuasive essays
- Incorporate the ideas and texts of others
- Use library and non-library research methods

- Evaluate sources

Knowledge of Conventions

- Use standard grammar
- Follow conventions for word choice, syntax, spelling, and punctuation
- Follow conventions appropriate for the given genre and/or medium, such as style, diction, and format
- Use a variety of sentence structures
- Document sources in MLA style

COURSE WRITING/ASSIGNMENTS:

Long and Short Compositions: The work in this class will be composed of two projects, each culminating in a Long Composition (LC). To prepare you to compose each project's LC successfully, you will compose a Short Composition (SC) designed to help you understand the genre in which you'll be writing. You must turn in a hard copy of your paper as well as an electronic submission via Moodle's TurnItIn function.

Process Work: These major assignments will be supported with a number of activities, called Process Work (PW), which we will complete both in class and as homework (including fast writing, brainstorming, journaling, group work, sketches, drafts, peer review, workshops, research, and more). Class attendance also counts toward your Process Work grade for each class project.

Letter of Reflection: At the end of each project, you will compose a final letter of reflection in which you look back at your experience.

The Portfolio: At the end of the semester, you will turn in each SC, LC, Letter of Reflection, and any pertinent process work (I'll let you know what when the time comes) to me in a folder. These must be the original papers with my comments and grades. This means that, in case you don't already do so, you should save everything. This is a department requirement. You may pick up your portfolio from me sometime during the following semester.

REVISION:

Each of your main compositions (long or short) is eligible for revision as long as all of your process work was submitted on time. **If you would like to revise a paper**, you must: 1) make and attend an appointment with me during my office hours; 2) following our conference, type up a revision proposal with our agreed upon due date; 3) submit your revision, the revision proposal, and the original essay (with my comments) by the due date agreed upon. **Late revisions will NOT be accepted.** Upon turning in a revision with significant changes to not only grammar but also organization and development, you will be assigned a new grade for the assignment. For example, if you receive a C on a paper but then earn a B on the revision, I'll only count the higher grade, in this case the B, towards your final course average.

CLASS PARTICIPATION & CONFERENCES:

Class participation, brief writing assignments, and quizzes: Your success in this class requires that you keep up with reading and writing assignments, think about them, and come to class prepared to discuss them. During each class period, I may give reading quizzes and brief writing exercises to help you focus on material. Any unexcused absences result in deductions from your class participation grade.

Conferences: Although you will attend a mandatory writing conference at mid-term, I encourage you to schedule conferences with me and with Writing Center tutors to discuss any stage of your writing process: getting started, drafting, researching, and so on. You might find that a little one-on-one feedback goes a long way in improving your writing.

GRADING:

- An "A" (90-100) represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- A "B" (80-89) represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

- A “C” (70-79) represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- A “D” (60-69) represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- An “F” (anything below 60) represents achievement that fails to meet the course requirements to such a degree that it is not worthy of credit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you earn a ZERO on **one** Long Composition, or **two** Short Compositions, you will automatically fail this course.

_____	Project One: 40 %
_____	15% Process Work
_____	25% Short Composition (SC) <due week three>
_____	60% Long Composition (LC) <due week seven>
_____	Project Two: 40 %
_____	15% Process Work
_____	25% SC <due week ten>
_____	60% LC <due week fourteen>
_____	Presentation: 10% <due week fifteen>
_____	Class Participation: 10%

ATTENDANCE:

Absences: As this is a Tuesday/Thursday class, you are allowed **THREE** unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absence will result in a 10% (one letter grade) deduction from your final course grade.

Tardiness: If you are more than five minutes late to class, you will be marked tardy for the day. Three instances of tardiness equals one absence. If you come to class more than twenty minutes late, then you will be counted as absent for the day.

Deadlines and make-ups: Please turn in all work on time. Long and Short Compositions will be docked five percent (½ of a letter grade) for each school/business day that they are late. Late process work is automatically deducted 50% regardless of when you turn it in. Any request to turn in late assignments, or make up an in-class writing assignment must be accompanied by a documented excuse, such as a doctor’s note or summons to court, and the makeup time must be during my listed office hours.

Dropping the course: If you stop attending class, please make sure to formally drop the course in the registrar’s office. If you stop attending class without dropping the course, you will receive a final grade of F.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

You are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. Any actions that purposefully distract the class will not be allowed. Respect for the opinions of others is very important in any environment, especially when you are voicing opposition to those opinions, which you are encouraged to do in this class. It is likely, in fact, that you may not agree with much of what is expressed in the classroom. Regardless of the topic of discussion or the casual nature of the exchange, courteous behavior and responses are expected at all times. Disrespectful statements or actions, whether directed at your classmates or at me, will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. Sexual harassment, including but not limited to making inappropriate comments to your classmates or me, will not be tolerated.

Electronic Devices: Cellular phones and texting are not allowed during class. Working on a laptop computer or other device is also not allowed without my permission or a note from the Office of Disability Services. Students who ignore this rule will be given a warning, docked class participation points, or asked to leave.

MOODLE/EMAIL:

Every UNO student has a computer account and access to Moodle. It is a requirement of this course that you use this resource. Please check your UNO email daily. I will respond to your email within 24 hours, Monday through Friday.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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 (UC 260) as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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>.

In short, plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be handled according to departmental and university regulations and may result in failure of this course. A plagiarized paper will result in a grade of zero for the assignment without opportunity for revision.