Instructor: Dr. Elinor Cubbage        Email: ecubbage@worwic.edu
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. by appointment        Phone: 410-334-2999 x3087

Required Texts

Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2015.

Blackboard
This class will have a supplementary Blackboard component where you can download the
syllabus, assignments, and view your grades. From Quick Links on the college homepage
(www.worwic.edu), click on myWor-Wic. Enter your username and password to login to your
myWor-Wic student portal. Click on Login to Blackboard under "My Blackboard Classes."
Enter your username and password to login to Blackboard, and you will be able to access this
class.

All students logging into Blackboard affirm that they understand and agree to follow Wor-Wic
Community College policies regarding academic integrity and the use of College resources as
described in the college catalog. Wor-Wic Community College considers the following as
violations of the computer usage policy:
  o Using the campus computing network and facilities to violate the privacy of other
    individuals.
  o Sharing of account passwords with friends, family members or any unauthorized
    individuals.
Violators are subject to college disciplinary procedures.

Course Description
This course is designed to help students develop critical thinking and writing skills by focusing
on the creation, analysis, and evaluation of arguments. Students study the content and structure
of arguments, the Toulmin model of argument and motivational appeals, and critically analyze
the arguments of classical and modern thinkers. Students holistically apply these rhetorical
principles to the creation of their own argumentative essays and to classroom debates and
discussions. Independent research is required. This course is one of two core courses in the
honors program and is required for honors program graduates. Prerequisites: Honors program
eligibility and ENG 101 with a grade of “B” or better or permission of the instructor. Usually offered in the fall and spring.

**ENG 200H: Critical Thinking and Writing, Honors**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>Assessment Goals</th>
<th>Assessment Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Evaluate the content and structure of various kinds of arguments. (GEO 1, 2, 3, 4)</td>
<td>1. Define the six parts of the Toulmin Model of argument: claim, support, warrant, qualifier, backing, and rebuttal and Aristotle’s three types of argumentative appeals: ethos, pathos, and logos. 2. Identify and discuss the Toulmin Model and Aristotelian appeals present in written and visual arguments.</td>
<td>Lecture notes, homework questions, in-class activities, class discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Assess written and visual arguments using the Toulmin Model and Aristotelian appeals.</td>
<td>Class discussions, class activities, journals, film analysis, book project, class discussion leader, Great Debate, research essay and its oral presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Create effective written arguments. (GEO 1, 3, 4, 5)</td>
<td>1. Apply the Toulmin Model and Aristotelian appeals to the creation of an argumentative research essay.</td>
<td>Journals</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Create an original project based on the content of a book which presents a controversial issue. 3. Write a film analysis of a documentary film. 4. Develop an analysis and discussion questions based on an assigned reading to lead class discussion. 5. Working in a peer group, research and organize support for one side of a controversial topic as well as rebuttals for an in-class formal debate.</td>
<td>Research Essay</td>
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<td>3. Evaluate information from research sources. (GEO 1, 3, 4, 5)</td>
<td>1. Locate and select appropriate sources in order to write effective arguments. 2. Choose, assess and defend appropriate sources in order to write effective arguments.</td>
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<td>Film analysis, journals, book project, Great Debate, research essay</td>
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4. Employ MLA style documentation ethically and correctly. (GEO 1, 2, 4, 5)

1. Demonstrate the ability to quote, paraphrase, summarize, and cite all sources accurately.
2. Employ the correct MLA format for both in-text citations and Works Cited entries.

Film analysis, journals, book project, Great Debate, research essay

5. Create effective oral arguments. (GEO 1, 2, 3, 5)

1. Make an oral presentation based on one section of the final argumentative research essay.
2. Make an oral presentation of an original project based on a book which presents a controversial issue.
3. Present arguments and rebuttals in an in-class formal debate.
4. Lead class discussion on an assigned reading.
5. Participate in class discussions of reading and writing assignments.

Research essay presentation
Book Project presentation
Great Debates
Discussion leader assignment
Class discussion

Grading**
10% Class Participation and Activities
5% Homework
10% Documentary Film Analysis Essay (3-5 pages)
20% Reader Response Journals (4) (2 pages each)
10% Class Discussion Leader
10% Great Debates
10% Book Project
15% Research Essay (6-8 pages)*
10% Oral Presentation of Research Essay*

*Note: The research essay and presentation count as the final exam for this course.
**Your course grades will be recorded in Blackboard. Careful monitoring of your grades will allow you to spot any problems that we can address immediately.

Grading Scale
90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F

Class Participation
A successful learning community results when each member comes to class prepared (has thoughtfully completed the assignment), actively participates in class activities, and seeks to expand his/her learning through independent study. Therefore, attendance is essential for the success of this class as well as for your own academic success. You will lose participation points if you arrive late for class or leave early. Your weekly class participation and class activities grades count as 10% of your final grade.
Absences and Late Work
You are responsible for completing all reading and writing assignments based on the time schedule listed on the syllabus. If you are absent, it is still your responsibility to submit all assignments on the date they are due. **No assignments will be accepted late in this class.** Only in cases of prolonged absence due to severe medical illness and/or death of an immediate family member will special consideration be made. It is imperative that any prolonged absence be accompanied by official documentation. Otherwise, your request will be denied.

Reader Response Journals
You will write four journal responses which are listed on your class schedule and based on the reading assignments. These journals require research accessed from Wor-Wic’s electronic databases or from scholarly, full-text Internet sources. Each journal must be **two full pages typed**, double-spaced and in MLA essay format. Be sure to include MLA citations and a Works Cited page for every journal. Attach a copy of the article and the rubric (print from Blackboard) to each journal entry. You will share your examples with the class each week. These journals (total) count as 20% of your final grade.

Class Discussion Leader
Each class member will create a presentation on a contemporary issue and lead a class discussion. Submit your typed notes and the Discussion Leader Evaluation rubric on the class date you lead discussion. This assignment counts as 10% of your final grade.

Book Project
You will create a project based on the book assigned this semester and present your project to the class. Choose a topic from the assignment handout and submit it to me for approval. All projects must address a different topic. A typed outline of your project presentation and an MLA Works Cited page are required. Your score for this project counts as 10% of your final grade.

Documentary Film Essay
After viewing a documentary film, you will write a 3-5 page critical analysis essay using MLA format which evaluates one scene of the film. This essay counts as 10% of your final grade.

Great Debates
You will work collaboratively with a peer group to collect evidence which either supports or refutes one side of a controversial issue. The class will select the debate topics and form teams to plan, research, and present these debates. Your grade will be determined by peer evaluations and my evaluation of your debate presentation. This grade counts as 10% of your final grade.

Research Essay and Oral Presentation
Your argumentation research essay (6-8 pages) grade is combined with your oral presentation of a section of this essay to form your final exam grade. The essay must take a stand on a controversial issue which you have studied this semester or one which requires my approval. Assignments linked to this essay include: a thesis statement, annotated copies of all sources, an annotated bibliography, rough draft, peer review, a conference with me on your draft, Works Cited page, outline, and final draft. MLA style documentation is required. At least four of your research sources (a minimum of 5 sources) must be derived from Wor-Wic’s electronic
You may also use research from other college libraries, such as Salisbury University’s Blackwell Library, public libraries, and Internet resources which must be scholarly, full-text articles. The essay counts as 15% and the oral presentation as 10% of your final grade.

**Original Work**
You may not reuse old essays from other classes, including English 101. If you use research from any assignments previously completed for college credit, you must receive my approval to do so in advance. Reusing old essays will be treated as a violation of the college’s Academic Honesty policy.

**Writing Conferences: The Reading & Writing Center**
You may seek writing assistance from a qualified instructor in the Reading/Writing Center in MTC 204. These “drop in” conferences are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis during the regular hours of the Reading and Writing Center, so do not wait until the last minute to seek writing assistance. Come prepared with your original assignment and a printed copy of your written work. Center hours are: M&Th: 8:30-6:30; T&W: 8:30-8:00; F: 10:00-1:30; Sat 10:00-1:00. Do not wait until the day before an assignment is due to seek assistance.

**Classroom Civility**
All students are expected to adhere to guidelines for civility in the classroom listed in Wor-Wic’s current college catalog. Use electronic devices only for emergency situations or instructor-directed educational purposes in the classroom. Any inappropriate use of electronic devices that disrupts the learning environment will be subject to the student code of conduct. Any other discourtesies—note-passing, side conversations, or consistently leaving early or arriving late—will not be tolerated.

**Sexual Violence Disclosures**
Wor-Wic Community College seeks a campus free of sexual violence which includes sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. Please be aware that if a student discloses a personal experience verbally or in writing as a Wor-Wic student to a faculty or staff member, the employee cannot maintain confidentiality and has the mandatory responsibility to notify one of the college’s Title IX coordinators. However, if you’d like to make a confidential disclosure of any such violence, you can contact Wor-Wic’s director of counseling (X-2900) or you can contact the Life Crisis Center at 410-749-HELP or 2-1-1. Information on rights of victims of sexual violence and related resources is available in the college catalog and at the public safety page of Wor-Wic’s website: [http://www.worwic.edu/Administration/PublicSafety.aspx](http://www.worwic.edu/Administration/PublicSafety.aspx).

**Emergency Information Statement**
In the event of severe inclement weather or other emergency, information about the closing of the college will be communicated via e2Campus and the College's website. Faculty will communicate with students about their courses and course requirements, such as assignments, quiz and exam dates, and class and grading policies, via Blackboard. Students will be responsible for completing all assignments in accordance with class policies.
Services for Students with Disabilities
Wor-Wic provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are in need of accommodations, please contact the counseling office at (410) 334-2899. For more information, see Wor-Wic’s Services for Students with Disabilities web page.

MLA Research Guidelines
The Arts and Humanities Department has adopted the research style guidelines of the Modern Language Association (MLA) which were most recently revised in 2016 in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (8th ed.). All research for this course must be documented using MLA guidelines. You may access a hard copy of the most current MLA guidelines from any Media Center site on Wor-Wic’s campus. You may also download a copy from Blackboard or Wor-Wic’s Library Services page.

Academic Honesty Policy: Academic honesty is expected of all students. Students should refer to the “Student Conduct” section of the college catalog for an explanation of the violations of academic values and the procedures that will be followed if a student is charged with one of these primary offenses, which include: cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty, fabrication, and other forms of academic dishonesty.
TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 17  Course Overview
Introduction to Rhetoric: Aristotle
Aristotelian Rhetoric, Ch. 1: 6-18
Language, Ch. 9: 266-288

Jan. 19  “I Have a Dream,” (handout)
Guidelines for Leading a Discussion
Guidelines for Journals: Read Responding to Arguments, Ch. 4: 114-126

Jan. 24  Introduction to Rhetoric: The Toulmin Method
Toulmin, Ch. 1: 24-32
Claims, 112-114; 149-152; 158-160; 164-165
Warrants, Ch. 7: 214-234

Jan. 26  What’s in a Word? Ch. 14: 443-451
Mini In-Class Debate
Guidelines for Book Project (handout)
Journal 1 due (See Journal Prompts in Blackboard)

Jan. 31  Common Fallacies, Ch. 10: 308-318
Introduction to Rhetoric: The Rogerian Method
Rogerian Argument, Ch. 1: 18-24
Sign up for Book Project topic and date

Feb. 2  Guidelines for Research Argument Essay and Oral Presentation (see Ch. 11 & 12)
Social Networking Sites, Ch. 19, 481-499
Journal 2 due and class discussion of journal essays

Read one from each section.
Book Project presentations

Feb. 9  Discussion of The Voice of Witness Reader, Part 2 (pp.188-283). Read one from each section.
Book Project presentations

Feb. 14 Discussion of The Voice of Witness Reader, Part 3 (pp. 284-395). Read one from each section.
Book Project presentations

Feb. 16 Book Project presentations and Guest Speaker
Complete Blackboard Mid-Term Evaluation (10 bonus points)
Feb. 21  Examining Multimodal Arguments, Ch. 3: 61-93
       Political Cartoons, 74-76
       Bring to class a political cartoon

Feb. 23  Print Advertisements, 70-74. Study the Fastrack ad analysis (106-107)
       Bring to class an advertisement.
       **Journal 3 due**

Feb. 28  Watch documentary film in class and discuss
       Review Common Fallacies, 296-318, for Journal #4
       **Mid-Term Grades**

Mar. 2   Discuss documentary film in class
       **Journal 4 due**

**Mar. 3-4**  Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Conference (MCHC)

**Mar. 6-11**  Spring Break—No Classes

Mar. 14  Classic Arguments
       “Civil Disobedience,” 588-603
       **E-mail topic for Final Argumentative Essay (due before class)**

Mar. 16  “A Modest Proposal,” 578-584
       **Draft of Documentary Film Essay Due (bring 3 copies) and Peer Review**

Mar. 21  Oral Arguments, 385-391 and Review Debating Skills
       Planning time for Great Debates

Mar. 23  **Documentary Film Analysis Essay due**
       Planning time for Great Debates
       Sign up for Draft #1 of Research Essay Conference Appointment

Mar. 28  **Great Debates**

Mar. 30  **Great Debates**
       Additional readings TBA

Apr. 4   Arguments in Literature: Short Stories (Additional readings TBA)
       **Draft #1 Argumentative Research Essay Conferences (by appointment)**
       **Annotated Bibliography Due (5 sources min.) (50 points)**

Apr. 6   Arguments in Literature: Drama (Additional readings TBA)
       **Draft #1 Argumentative Research Essay Conferences (by appointment)**

Apr. 11  **Draft #2 of Research Essay Due (20 pts.) and Peer Review (bring 3 copies)**
**Individual Conferences** on Research Essay: Bring typed full draft, Works Cited page, and sources with annotations.

Apr. 13  Class cancelled for **Final Individual Conferences** on Research Essay

**Apr. 14-16**  College Closed

Apr. 18  Course Evaluation and Reflections  
**Research Essay Due**  
**Individual Presentations of Research Essay**

Apr. 20  **Individual Presentations of Research Essay**

Apr. 27  Celebration!  
Class Meets: Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon