Argumentation

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David Haynes

Office: B009C

Office #: (765) 285-2880

E-mail: dghaynes@bsu.edu

Office Hours: Tue/Thu, 10:15-12, 1-3:15

***Course Description & Objectives***

This course will provide practice in argumentative writing. You will read and write short arguments, both formal and informal, in addition to creating and responding to arguments from other writers.

You will:

\*Learn about and **practice writing arguments using a variety of approaches,**

\***Share your writing and ideas** with the class.

\*Learn to offer and receive **constructive criticism** from your peers and from your instructor.

\*Deepen and sharpen your **attention to and use of language**.

\*Learn about the practice of writing effective arguments.

\***Expand the scope and practice of your thinking and writing** as a young academic.

While we will have plenty of weekly discussions and you will always be working on your arguments, we will also have workshops. These are days in which the class and I are on hand for consultation while you work on your individual arguments. These are intense and productive working days, and also opportunities for you and I to work individually on your projects (as you write them).

We will be emphasizing the necessity of thoughtfulness in the argumentative writing process-- the need to stay with your work, not to abandon it, to improve it, work through it, welcome complexity, seek out unique details and approaches, while always striving to be original, honest, and thoughtful. Our overall goal will be for you to produce several arguments about which you feel confident and which are persuasive and interesting.

***Texts***

*Writing Analytically,* 6th Edition, by David Rosenwasser and Jill Stephen, 2012

***Assignments\* Grading***

Argument 1 25% A 94-100

Argument 2 25% A- 90-93

Argument 3 25% B+ 87-89

Citizenship 10% B 83-86

Participation 15%

 B- 80-82

 C+ 77-79

 C 73-76

 C- 70-72

 D\* 0-69

\*There will likely be more assignments, overall, than the ones listed here. All assignments and percentages are subject to change, depending upon the needs of the class and the judgment of your instructor.

**Grading**

Assignments will emphasize different concepts and approaches, You will write in class frequently. Sometimes the assignment will be due at the end of class and sometimes not until the next class. Sometimes you will write for 5 minutes in class and sometimes you will write for 45 minutes. For certain assignments, you will be asked to be less serious and careful, which will be taken into consideration, of course, in grading. Some assignments will include written feedback from me, while some will simply receive check marks for credit or a letter grade.

 ***Assignments Note***

All assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Work that is turned in late will be penalized. The only exception to this rule is if you have a legitimate emergency and you and I have had an in-person discussion about a short extension. Technological problems (a broken printer, for example) are not acceptable excuses for late work. You should always back up your work and have contingency plans for logistical problems. This is a significant part of being academically responsible. Everything you do in this class, in and out of the classroom, can and will contribute, positively or negatively, to your overall course grade. I reserve the right, throughout the course, to make any adjustments I deem necessary based upon your on-going performance.

***Participation***

Our classroom discussions and workshops are dependent upon your participation. While you are expected to have your readings and assignments done on time, you are also expected to be prepared to share your observations, questions, and ideas with the class. You will be evaluated on the overall effort and value of your daily engagement with our material. This includes in-class writing, workshops, discussion (groups and in-class). Failure to be prepared or to contribute reduces your participation percentage.

***Attendance***

You are expected to be in class and on time daily. Failure to do so will hurt your overall grade. Sleeping in class constitutes an unexcused absence. If you have an emergency and cannot make it to class, I ask you that you contact me in person or through my office phone number.

Tardiness: If you arrive in class 5 minutes after the appointed time, you will be considered tardy. If you are more than 10 minutes tardy, you will earn an unexcused absence, but you will still be expected to attend class.

***Academic Honesty***

You are required to produce work that is academically honest. Direct and indirect plagiarism, both of which we will discuss in class, are unacceptable and have serious academic consequences. If you are even remotely uncertain about whether or not any part of your work is academically honest, then you are to contact me and we can discuss the situation.

***Accommodations***

If you require any special accommodations due to a disability, let me know as soon as possible and I will make whatever adjustments are necessary for your comfort in my class.

***Laptops***

Laptops are to be closed and off your desks during class time unless I have specified otherwise (we will often write in class and you may use your computer for your creative project).

**Homework Policy for Breaks**

As per Academy policy, I will not be giving homework before an official break with the expectation that the homework be due the first day back from break. You should rest and enjoy your time on extended weekends and holidays and I will do my best to ensure you are not burdened with homework you have just been given that must be done over break. However, in the event that you wait to do your homework over a break, where you feel that’s an option, I bear no responsibility for your choice.

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(What follows is our English Department policy on sensitive readings in the classroom. Because our creative projects can be personal and difficult, as well as entertaining and pleasurable, we have to be especially conscientious about their effects on others. Remember that we will be reading each other’s work throughout the semester.)

***Literature Note***

Important literature is often about the deepest and most difficult struggles of humans to live authentically in a complex world. Through the thoughts and experiences of literary characters, we can examine and evaluate our personal responses to life’s mysteries, complexities, disappointments, and joys. In addition, we begin to understand how a writer, in his or her own struggle to experience creatively, has responded to the social, political, and artistic environment of his/her times. The English Department at the Academy selects reading material that reflects these human struggles, has endured the test of time, and has earned a respected place in the universe of letters. The instructors will often include recently published poems, stories, and articles that reflect the diversity of contemporary cultures and experiences.

If, because of the powerful nature of the reading experience, you are unable to read and study a specific text with reasonable analytic objectivity, please confer with your instructor. Alternative texts are available.

BSU Diversity Statement

“Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter.”