

ENGLISH 102

CRITICAL READING AND WRITING (Fall, 2007)

Mr. Richmond
Office: MHB-311 Phone: (562) 985-4210
Email: richmond@csulb.edu Mailbox: MHB-411
Web Page: <http://www.csulb.edu/~richmond/>

Office Hours: MW 8:30-9:30
TTh 2:30-3:30

COURSE PURPOSE

English 102 aims to sharpen students' ability to evaluate and respond critically to claims and assertions. Students analyze readings that contain arguments, learn to assess the strengths and weaknesses of arguments, and write papers and give presentations that construct and critique arguments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To successfully complete English 102, students must demonstrate knowledge about critical thinking and the nature of compelling arguments. Through participation in class activities and the completion of assignments, students must demonstrate an ability to formulate assertions, criticize and improve assertions, construct strong arguments and explain why arguments are strong or weak.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- You must attend class regularly and be responsible for obtaining notes and assignments after every absence. As soon as a student has more than **six** absences, I will no longer accept work from that student. The course grade, in that case, will most likely be an F. **Deadlines:** 9/17—drop without a W; 11/8—drop all classes with a pro-rated refund; 11/21—drop without dean's signature; 12/14—drop with dean's signature.
- Please conduct yourself in a manner that is conducive to classroom learning. Arriving late, leaving during class, talking (unless addressing the instructor or the class), complaining about assignments, interrupting the lecture to bring up personal matters, and neglecting to turn off phones are examples of actions that disrupt the class.
- Turn in work on time. Papers more than one class period late are not accepted without prior permission. However, you are allowed to miss major assignment without grade penalty. So if you miss an essay, I will count it as the missed assignment. If you complete all assignments, I will drop your lowest grade. I will not drop the score on the final exam since it is the only in-class essay you will write.
- Follow this format for all essays written outside of class:
 - Write on one side only. Double-space. Leave wide margins on all sides of the paper.
 - Type your essays. Use ink if handwritten. Recopy heavily corrected pages
 - Do not place your essay in a notebook or binder.
- All graded assignments in the course must be the original work of the student receiving credit for the work or that assignment will receive an F and the student will face the possibility of further disciplinary action. See CSULB Catalog for university policies on plagiarism.

TEXTBOOKS

Required: *Elements of Argument*, 8th Edition by Rottenberg and Winchell
Course Handouts for English 102 (Richmond)

Recommended A college dictionary.

GRADING

Short Assignments (various dates)	20%	Paper #4 (12/12 or day of final)	13%
Midterm Exam (10/15)	10%	Panel Presentation (various dates)	8%
Paper #1 (10/31)	10%	Class participation (panel reports)	4%
Paper #2 (11/14)	11%	Final Exam: 12/19 2:45-4:45	12%
Paper #3 (11/28)	12%		

(Grades are recorded as A=6, A- =5.7, B+=5.3, B=5, B-=4.7, C+ =4.3, C=4, C- =3.7, D=3, F or missing = 0)

CLASS CALENDAR

UNIT ONE (9/5-10/15) Evaluating and constructing arguments. Read: *Course Handouts*, pages 1-35; *Elements of Argument*: Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Midterm Exam.

UNIT TWO (10/17-12/12) Solving problems/exploring issues using the critical approach through reading, paper writing, class discussion, panel presentations. Read: *Elements of Argument*, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12-19; *Course Handouts*, pages 36-56.