English 104: Critical Thinking and Argumentation
Fall 2008 MWF 8:15-9:16AM in LB 200 Ticket #2743
Fall 2008 MWF 9:30-10:31AM in LB 210 Ticket #2749

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Sarah McLemore OFFICE: AD 246 PHONE: x3122
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 3:45-5:45; Tuesday 4:45-5:45

GCC Catalog Description of English 104
English 104 is designed to be a continuation of English 101. Consequently, the primary focus of the course is instruction in writing. In addition, students learn to read and think critically and to develop their analytical and argumentative writing skills. The course takes students beyond the level of English 101 by providing a more advanced understanding of the relationship of language to logic and by further promoting the ability to reason effectively and reach valid conclusions. Writing forms and strategies are taught within the contexts of contemporary ideas and cultural diversity, as reflected in selected readings. Prerequisite: English 101

Introduction and Course Objectives
Welcome to English 104! In this course we’ll read, write, think about, and discuss a variety of sources. In our examination of these texts we’ll gain the ability to think, read, and write critically as students who are aware of different genres of writing. You’ll also learn how to apply the skills we use to analyze texts in other facets of your life and in examining many other types of writing. While this is a class taught through the English Division of GCC, it is also designed to prepare you to write in a variety of different academic disciplines. As a consequence, you’ll be reading materials which are related to issues of obedience, terror, tyranny, and identity. This class is what I like to call a “liscussion” or a “dilecture”—it’s composed of lots of discussion based activities supplemented by occasional short lectures. Your active and engaged participation in the course will make it significantly more fun and interesting. I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas about the texts and the course as much as possible.

Student Learning Outcomes
Reading: Critically read and evaluate expository and persuasive culturally diverse texts which address current issues. Identify thesis or unifying theme of text and traditional use of reasoning and logic. Identify and evaluate supporting evidence for relevance and accuracy and evaluate text in terms of diction, tone, and unity.

Research: Demonstrate appropriate application of supporting evidence from primary and secondary sources. Evaluate evidence in terms of accuracy, relevance, and freedom from faulty assumptions.

Writing: Write sophisticated, coherently structured, mechanically sound expository and persuasive essays which address current issues.

Required Texts and Materials
Course Reader (CR) available in the GCC Bookstore
Enrique’s Journey by Sonia Nazario available in the GCC Bookstore
A notebook to be used to take notes inside and outside of class
A binder to keep your notes and handouts for our course
A simple folder or portfolio to use to turn in your class portfolios
A flashdrive or floppy disk (to save your work for our class)
COURSE POLICIES

Grading
5 points Essay #1 (Can a Story be an Argument?) DUE Wednesday, September 24
5 points In Class Essay #1 (Politics and Argumentation) Monday, September 29
5 points Logical Fallacy Assignment DUE DATE TBD
10 points Essay #2 (Obedience to Authority) DUE Monday, November 3
10 points In Class Essay #2 (Enrique’s Journey) Wednesday, November 12
5 points Annotated Bibliography DUE Wednesday, November 5
5 points Dictatorship Definition DUE Friday, November 21
15 points Essay #3 (The World’s Worst Dictator) DUE during the final exam time for your class if you’re in my 9:30-10:31 section; the due date for my 8:15-9:16 section is TBD.
10 points In Class Essay #3 (V for Vendetta) during the final exam time for your course
10 points Reading Quizzes (the number of quizzes is negotiable and depends on your class’s participation. Good participation as a class = fewer quizzes).
5 points Verified Attendance at 3 GCC library workshops of your choice. You must attend these workshops by Wednesday, October 8 to receive these points. This is an early deadline; plan accordingly.
15 points Participation and other homework (turning in articles for your annotated bibliography on time, enthusiastically participating in your logical fallacy skit, etc.)

Equaling...100 points total
100-90 = A
90-80 = B
80-70 = C
Anything below a 70 is not a passing grade
69-60 = D
59-below = F

Class Attendance: It is mandatory that you attend class. After six absences from our class you will be dropped or you will not receive a passing grade in the course. There is no such thing as an excused absence. You will not receive credit for any written assignments which are not completed on time and turned in to me on time in the manner which is requested on the syllabus. Furthermore, failure to attend class will result in a lowered attendance and participation grade because you can’t participate unless you’re in class.

Being Dropped From this Course or Not Passing This Course: You will be dropped from this course or will not pass this course for the following reasons:
1) You miss either the first or second day of our course
2) You have six absences for this course before the first half of the term.
3) You have more six absences for this course total in the second half of the term (example: you might have one absence in the first half of the course and five in the second).
4) You do not receive a passing grade on your graded work in this class (total number of points in class is less than 70 points in my class).

Participation: It is vital that you participate in class discussion and activities. Failure to do so will affect your final grade. You are required to participate in a manner that shows cultural sensitivity and respect for people’s opinions, orientations, backgrounds, and choices. You are expected to come to class prepared. Read all the texts listed on the syllabus for the date, bring a notebook and a pencil to class, and think about what issues, questions, and ideas you might want to raise in class. You also need to arrive in class on time with all of your assignments completed. Tardiness is not acceptable. Tardiness will adversely affect your grade. Two or more tardies (being 5 minutes or more late from class) will count as one absence. Leaving class early will be counted as a tardy. If students leaving class in the middle of the class and returning to class
becomes a repeated issue I will make it a policy that any instance in which a student leaves class and returns to class will be counted as a tardy.

**Turning in Your Work and Make-Up Work:** All work is due on the date assigned in the syllabus. I generally collect work at the beginning of class. If you fail to turn in work when I collect it I will probably not accept it. I do not accept email submissions of work. If you’re absent from class, find someone to turn in a hard copy of any assignments which are due. I do not generally accept make-up work. For absences due to severe illness, death in the family, and other documented excuses then you will probably be able to make up your work.

**Academic Integrity:** All of the work you turn in must be entirely your own. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty which involves taking others’ ideas and words and including them in your work for our class is unacceptable and I report incidents of academic dishonesty to the appropriate authorities on campus. If I find that you have plagiarized any work that you have turned in for our class you will either fail the assignment and/or be in danger of failing the course depending on the severity of the incident of plagiarism. Do not attempt to pass off the words or ideas of another as your own. Plagiarism is a serious offense that bears serious consequences; it is not worth the risk so be sure to cite your sources. I am always available should a question on this or any other matter pertaining to the class arise. The following link will take you to the GCC library’s very useful and comprehensive handout on avoiding plagiarism: [http://www.glendale.edu/library/libins/icweb/Handouts/Plagiarism.htm](http://www.glendale.edu/library/libins/icweb/Handouts/Plagiarism.htm). Please also see the handout in this syllabus packet on plagiarism.

**Feedback/Office Hours:** I strongly encourage you to meet with me during office hours or by appointment. These meetings can serve as an essential role as a consultation regarding your progress at any stage during this course. You can also feel free to ask questions or chat about other matters pertaining to the study of literature, job choices, internships, transferring, etc. I’m really happy to meet with you and am looking forward to getting to know all of you!

**Cell Phones, Pagers, Blackberries, Ipods, Sidekicks, and other signifiers of modern life:** Out of respect for your classmates, **turn off** all portable electronic devices before class and take them off your desk. If I see you using a portable device I will generally follow these procedures 1) I will give you a verbal warning to remove the device 2) I may reserve the right to confiscate it for the remainder of that day’s class 3) I will ask you to leave the class and I will report you to the Dean of Students office. More importantly, if I remind you to remove a device from your desk and/or cease using it you can bet that your participation grade will be negatively affected. Keep cell phones far away from me or risk dire grade consequences.

**Special Needs:** If you have any special needs such as those addressed by the Disabled Student Center or High-Tech Center please feel free to discuss them with me early in the course so that you may file the necessary paperwork.

**Library Workshop Attendance:** Your participation grade is determined in part by your completion of three workshops at the GCC library. You need to attend three of the workshops by **Wednesday, October 8. This is a really early deadline and it's important that you meet it to succeed in the assignments for our course! Failure to do so will result in a loss of 5 total points in our course.** All library workshops are free and a great resource to use as a GCC student. For an updated schedule of workshops please visit: [http://www.glendale.edu/library/IC/LibWorkshops/wkshop.htm](http://www.glendale.edu/library/IC/LibWorkshops/wkshop.htm).
Course Schedule

Please note that the last day to drop this course through Admissions and Records with a “W” notation is November 22.

Please note that this schedule of assignments and course content is subject to change. I will announce all changes in class. Be in class on time to make sure you hear of any changes.

Wednesday, September 3
In Class:  Introductions
Homework
Purchase:  Course Reader and *Enrique’s Journey* (both available from the GCC bookstore). Purchase all course supplies. There will be a Course Reader and supply check on Monday. If you don’t have the reader and the supplies you’ll be marked absent.
Read:  “Bigfoot Stole My Wife” by Ron Carlson (attached to syllabus)
Sign Up: Register electronically for three GCC library workshops. You must have completed three GCC library workshops by October 8 or you will lose 5 points in our class. Also, I will not read your articles/annotations until you’ve completed these workshops.

Friday, September 5
In Class:  Discuss “Bigfoot Stole My Wife”; Credibility and evidence
Homework
Read:  “Silk Parachute” by John McPhee (*CR*)
Purchase:  Course Reader and *Enrique’s Journey* (both available from the GCC bookstore). Purchase all course supplies. There will be a Course Reader and supply check on Monday. If you don’t have the reader and the supplies you’ll be marked absent.
Sign Up: Register electronically for three GCC library workshops. You must have completed three GCC library workshops by October 8 or you will lose 5 points in our class. Also, I will not read your articles/annotations until you’ve completed these workshops.

Monday, September 8
In Class:  Discuss “Silk Parachute”; Credibility and evidence
Homework
Read:  “Bullet in the Brain” by Tobias Wolff (*CR*)

Wednesday, September 10
In Class:  Discuss “Bullet in the Brain” and “Silk Parachute”
Homework
Read:  “Stillness” by Courtney Angela Brkic (*CR*)

Friday, September 12
In Class:  Discuss “Stillness”; Ethos and Pathos
Homework
Read:  “Arguments from the Heart” (*CR*)

Monday, September 15
In Class:  Ethos and Pathos
Homework
Read:  “Arguments Based on Character” (*CR*)
Optional Assignment: Write Rough Draft for Essay # 1 due Wednesday, September 17

Wednesday, September 17
In Class:  Ethos and Pathos
Homework
Read:  “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb” by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (*CR*)
Friday, September 19  
In Class: Discuss “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb”  
Homework  
Read: "Arguments Based on Fact and Reason" (CR)

Monday, September 22  
In Class: Discuss “Logos”  
Homework  
Read: Parade Magazine’s annual list of “The World’s Worst Dictators” available online at http://www.parade.com/dictators/2008/

Wednesday, September 24  
In Class: Essay #1 due at the beginning of class—NO EXCEPTIONS. Politics and Argumentation  
Homework  
Investigate: The Living Room Candidate website: http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/  
Pick: A dictatorship that you plan to research for your final essay in this class (Essay #3).

Friday, September 26  
In Class: Politics and Argumentation  
Homework  
Review: Political campaign advertisement  
Prepare: In Class Essay #1  
Pick: A dictatorship that you plan to research for your final essay in this class (Essay #3). You can use Parade’s list to guide you or you can consult websites such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Monday, September 29  
In Class: In Class Essay #1  
Homework  
Read: "Fallacies of Argument" (CR)  
Pick: A dictatorship that you plan to research for your final essay in this class (Essay #3). You can use Parade’s list to guide you or you can consult websites such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Wednesday, October 1  
In Class: Logical Fallacies  
Homework  
Re-read: "Fallacies of Argument" (CR)  
Write: A one paragraph typewritten statement of which dictator you’ve chosen to research and why.

Friday, October 3  
In Class: Logical Fallacies  
Homework  
Re-read: "Fallacies of Argument"  
Prepare: Skits  
Write: Discovery Draft for Essay #3 due Monday, October 6
Monday, October 6
In Class: Skits; library research
Homework
Research/Find: Find two electronic or print sources on your dictator for Essay #3. Print each out and bring to class on Wednesday, October 8 to receive credit.

Wednesday, October 8
In Class: Obedience to Authority; dictatorship sources
Homework
Read: “The Perils of Obedience” by Stanley Milgram (CR)

Friday, October 10
In Class: Discuss “The Perils of Obedience”; introduce essay assignment
Homework
Read: “The Stanford Prison Experiment” by Phillip Zimbardo (CR)
Research/Find: An article of your choice from Proquest which represents an example of obedience to authority you would like to investigate. Bring the article to class on Monday to receive credit.
Write: Discovery Draft of Essay #2 due in class on Monday, October 13

Monday, October 13
In Class: Discuss “The Stanford Prison Experiment” (CR); discuss your articles and Discovery Drafts
Homework
Read: Introduction and Chapter 1 of Mistakes Were Made (but not by me) (CR)
Write: Annotations for your first two sources for Essay #3

Wednesday, October 15
In Class: Discuss Mistakes Were Made (but not by me); discuss essay assignment
Homework
Write: Rough Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, October 20)
Read: “The Organization Kid” by David Brooks (CR)

Friday, October 17
In Class: Discuss “The Organization Kid”
Homework
Write: Rough Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, October 20)

Monday, October 20
In Class: “Peer Review”; discussion of Essay #3
Homework
Research/Find: Three additional print or electronic sources to use in Essay #3. Bring to class on Wednesday, October 22 to receive credit.

Wednesday, October 22
In Class: Catch Up Day
Homework
Read: Enrique’s Journey prologue through page 60

Friday, October 24
In Class: Discuss Enrique’s Journey
Homework
Read: Enrique’s Journey 60-135
Write: Annotations for your 2 sources for Essay #3
Monday, October 27
In Class: Discuss Enrique’s Journey
Homework
Read: Enrique’s Journey 137-169
Write: Final Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, November 3)

Wednesday, October 29
In Class: Discuss Enrique’s Journey
Homework
Read: Enrique’s Journey 169-196
Write: Final Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, November 3)

Friday, October 31
In Class: Discuss Enrique’s Journey
Homework
Read: Enrique’s Journey 196-end
Write: Final Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, November 3)

Monday, November 3
In Class: Essay #2 due at the beginning of class—no exceptions; discuss Enrique’s Journey
Homework
Read: Make sure you’ve finished Enrique’s Journey
Write: Annotated Bibliography for Essay #3 (revise any of the 5 annotations you wrote which need revisions; make sure that your completed annotated bibliography includes copies of each source—you need 5 sources total).

Wednesday, November 5
In Class: Peer Review of annotated bibliographies; discuss Enrique’s Journey and your upcoming essays

Friday, November 7
In Class: Catch up day
Homework
Read: Chapter 1 of 1984 (CR); the first episode of V for Vendetta (CR)

Monday, November 10 VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS
Homework
Read: Chapter 1 of 1984 (CR); the first episode of V for Vendetta (CR)
Want to get ahead? Then read “On Modern Tyranny” by Daniel Chirot and “The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship” by Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski both in CR

Wednesday, November 12
In Class: In Class Essay #2
Homework
Re-read: V for Vendetta and 1984
Re-read: Discovery Draft, Annotated Bibliography, and articles for Essay #3
Friday, November 14  
In Class: Discuss literary dictatorships  
Homework  
Read: “On Modern Tyranny” by Daniel Chirot and “The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship” by Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski both in CR

Monday, November 17  
In Class: Discuss Dictatorships  
Homework  
Write: Dictatorship Definition due Friday, November 21

Wednesday, November 19  
In Class: Discuss Dictatorships  
Homework  
Write: Dictatorship Definition due Friday, November 21

Friday, November 21  
In Class: Share definitions; drafting thesis statements and outlines  
Homework  
Write: Thesis statement and essay outline due Monday, December 1

Monday, December 1  
In Class: Library workshop day  
Homework  
Write: Rough Draft of essay

Wednesday, December 3  
In Class: Watch V for Vendetta  
Homework  
Write: Rough Draft of essay due Friday, December 5

Friday, December 5  
In Class: Watch V for Vendetta  
Homework  
Write: Final Draft of Essay due at the latest on Monday, December 15th

Monday, December 8 Last Day of class  
Homework  
Write: Final Draft of Essay  
Prepare: For In Class Essay #3 (Final Exam)

Wednesday, December 10 between 7:30-10 AM is the Final Exam time for English 104 MWF 9:30-10:31

Monday, December 15 between 7:30-10AM is the Final Exam Time for English 104 M, W, F 8:15-9:16.

Have a great break! Hope to see you around in the spring!