

**Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking
Spring Semester 2018**

Course Name: English 5
Instructor's Name: Michael Hale
Office Hours & Location: 1654 Emeritus M 12-1, T 12-1, W 8-9 & 12-1, Th 12-1
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Catalog Description: A critical reasoning and advanced composition course designed to develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills beyond the level achieved in English 1A. The course will focus on development of logical reasoning and analytical and argumentative writing skills.

See SRJC's official **Student Learning Outcomes** for Eng 5 at:
https://portal.santarosa.edu/srweb/SR_CourseOutlines.aspx?CVID=17003&Semester=20117

Required Textbooks

Author	Title	ISBN	Required?
Gay and Coates	<i>World of Wakanda</i>	9781302906504	YES
Coates	<i>Black Panther</i>	9781302900533	YES
Solnit	<i>Paradise Built in Hell</i>	9780143118077	YES
Hill	<i>Nobody: Casualties from America's War on Vulnerable</i>	9781501124969	YES

Additional Requirements

- Access to the Internet and a computer that can read PDF documents and also open and save documents in Microsoft Word format. (If you do not have a computer at home or if you have an old computer, every computer on campus will have these basic applications). You can also use Google Docs with a free gmail.com account.
- Beyond the required textbooks, all of the other reading assignments will be distributed via the class website.

GRADING:

Presentations (2)	200
Journals	200
Reading Quizzes (4)	100
Essay 1	100
Essay 2	100
Essay 3	200
Final Exam	100
Total	1000

Grading Scale
1000-900 = A
800-899 = B
700-799 = C
600-699 = D
Less than 599 = F

OUTLINE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Essays

The theme of this course will be the critical exploration of social problems in the United States through the theoretical lens of intersectionality (race, gender, class, sexuality). We will explore problems using an in-depth framework of urgency, history, and agency.

1. **Essay 1: urgency:** why is the problem significant?
2. **Essay 2: history:** what is the root cause of the problem, and why do people not know about/understand the problem?
3. **Essay 3: agency:** what can be done to solve the problem?

Presentations

1. Large picture: define the problem according to the author. How did you come to understand the significance of the problem? Along with a definition of the problem, assemble a list of vocabulary words and key concepts that you find central to understanding the reading.
2. Follow up on the history/background of an interesting issue raised in the chapter that is under-developed or left unexplored or is just plain interesting to you.
3. Research a footnote or reference in detail. Does that reference support the author's point, or is he/she stretching the source? What further lessons did you learn by reading the reference?
4. Collect presentation materials from everyone, organize them, and upload them to canvas, with a meaningful introduction.

Journals

1. Every week: Respond to presentation materials on the discussion board. Ask questions, give constructive praise, make comments that provide further insight
2. Every unit: pre-writing and peer-review for your essay.
3. Every unit: meet with me to share your thesis, outline, and draft of your essay.

SPECIFIC COURSE POLICES:

The guiding principle of this class is **RESPECT!** I promise to respect you as individuals and as a class. I require that you respect your colleagues/peers and the classroom learning environment.

Participation: You are expected to come to class every meeting prepared to participate actively. You do not receive points for just showing up. Participation means that 1) you have completely finished the assigned readings and other activities, 2) brought the readings and other activities with you for the day as well as your notes, 3) you freely raise questions, make comments, and offer insights on the assignments, and 4) that you take notes during discussion and refrain from any rude or distracting behavior. Failure to demonstrate the above 4 levels of participation could result in you being marked as absent for the day.

Communication: We will use email and the class website (Canvas) to communicate outside of class. It is essential that you monitor the class website and email often. I will assume that if it's on the website or your email, you know about it. You download some of your reading assignments, and you submit all of your written assignments via the class website. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours Monday to Friday. I do not respond to emails on Sunday.

Document Format: Please use Modern Language Association (MLA) document design and citation for all assignments. (You will learn about this in class).

Academic Honesty and Classroom Conduct: Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. For further information, please review SRJC's standards of student conduct, on the web, at http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/rules-regulations/student-conduct.shtml

Attendance: This class only meets 1 day per week, so your attendance and participation are extremely important to your success. Attendance will be taken every class period. **More than 3 unexcused absences will result in an F.** It is your responsibility to track your number of absences. Unless there are dire circumstances, I do not give excused absences. You have 2 free absences to use any way you wish. Beyond 2, you will need a doctor's note or other substantiating documentation that explains the dire need for additional absences. For further information, please review SRJC's attendance policy <http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/8stuserv/8.1.5P.pdf>

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:

1. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for understanding what each assignment is asking you to accomplish, when the assignment is due, and where to upload it. If you do not understand an assignment or when it is due, you need to ask a question in class or email me ASAP.
2. **Due Dates** Assignments are generally due at the start of the class period it is due (unless otherwise indicated by the instructor). An assignment is late if it is **not** uploaded to Canvas by the start of the class on the date it is due, or by the alternative time indicated by the professor.
3. **As a general rule, I DO NOT accept late assignments.** An assignment is late if it is not uploaded to the class website using the link indicated in the assignment by the specified due date and time. I will make *exceptions* to this general rule in special circumstances. You must email me a detailed explanation of the special circumstances for my consideration. I am much more accommodating if you negotiate an extension at least 24 hours prior to the due date.
4. **All of your grades** will be posted on the class website. Unless otherwise notified, I will update your grade 7-10 days after an assignment is due. If I grant you an extension on your assignment, it will sometimes take me longer to update your grade. It is your responsibility to check your grades, and let me know ASAP if I have not posted your grade by mistake, or if I have posted an incorrect grade.
5. There will be several opportunities for **Extra Credit**. These opportunities are events or activities announced in class. Extra credit cannot exceed 25 points. To submit extra credit, write a 300-500 word evaluation of the event or activity you attended. Email it to me with the subject line "Extra Credit." I will not grade your extra credit unless it changes your grade at the end of the semester.
6. The use of **cell phones** or other distracting devices is **not allowed** in class. Such electronic equipment must be turned off and put out of sight before you enter the classroom. You may use your laptop to take notes in class. However, you must keep the sound off at all times. Furthermore, if you are found to be using the laptop for a purpose other than taking notes, or if it appears disruptive to other students, you will be asked to put it away and will be prohibited from bringing it back to class. I will not warn you more than once. After your warning, I will simply mark you absence for the day. Accumulating absences will seriously impact on your grade.
7. In this class, we will be reading essays and **discussing themes that are at times controversial**. It is fine to disagree. In fact, it is encouraged to discuss our disagreements openly and honestly, but please be respectful of each other and the professor. In addition, please be aware that it is very easy to misunderstand the intention of an online post. Things that would otherwise be harmless, seem aggressive or hurtful online. Learning can only take place if people feel safe to discuss their disagreements and ask questions without abuse.
8. Lastly, racist, sexist, homophobic, or other language/behavior that demeans a student or degrades the learning environment **WILL NOT** be tolerated. After a warning, you will be suspended from class and referred to a disciplinary committee. For further information, please review SRJC's standards of student conduct, on the web, at http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/rules-regulations/student-conduct.shtml

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Writing Center http://www.santarosa.edu/english/writing_center.html

The English Department Writing Centers on the Santa Rosa and Petaluma campuses provide free writing tutorial services and computer/printer use to all registered SRJC students. Tutorial assistance is provided by English department faculty and instructional assistants. Instructors work with students on the full range of the elements of composition, including brainstorming, thesis development, essay organization, paragraphing, topic sentences, style, clarity, coherence, MLA documentation format, research techniques, mechanics, grammar and punctuation.

Santa Rosa Campus Writing Lab: 1629 Emeritus Hall, (707) 521- 7836

The Doyle Library <http://www.santarosa.edu/library/>
You can drop-in, chat, phone, or email a librarian for help with your research

Student Resource Center <https://resources.santarosa.edu/> Referrals, information, listings, for Food, Housing, Transportation, School Supplies, Shower Kits, Fire Relief Information and Applications, tips for lowering your everyday costs and so much more.

Disability Resources Services <http://online.santarosa.edu/presentation/page/?35762> Tel: (707) 527-4278

Mental Health Services: (707) 524-1595 PLOVER HALL, ROOM 559

Nurse Practitioner: (707) 527-4445 RACE BUILDING, ROOM 4017

Dream Center <https://dream.santarosa.edu/> (707) 521-7947 PLOVER HALL

EOPS (707) 527-4383 Bertolini Student Services Center 2nd Floor, Room 4722
<https://eops.santarosa.edu/>

Scholarships <https://scholarships.santarosa.edu/>

Canvas Help (844) 303-0344 24/7 hotline
<https://de.santarosa.edu/content/student-help-canvas>