

Course Syllabus

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English 5: Critical Thinking and Writing

Section # 4842 / Spring 2025

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Course Description

Welcome to critical thinking! In this course, you will develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills, building your logical reasoning skills, as well as your analytical and argumentative writing skills. You will learn the principles and vocabulary to help you recognize, respond to, and create critical arguments and analyses.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of principles of critical thinking.
 2. Critically analyze texts, media, and everyday experiences.
 3. Compose inquiry-driven, researched argumentative, critical analysis, and response texts.
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Course Structure

Overall Structure

This course will have a regular, repeating structure, with reading and assignments each week due on Sundays, as well as two major multiple choice tests (a mid-term and a final) and a longer researched argumentative essay due at the end of the course, which we will focus on for the last few weeks of class.

Lesson Structure

This course is organized into regular Lessons, with one Lesson per week. Each Lesson, you will begin by looking at **the current Lesson Module**, containing **all the important information**. The module page contains ALL information and links to all assignments and reading for that lesson.

MAKE SURE to look at the modules section for your assignments and NOT the auto-generated calendar or to-do sections!

Generally, the Lessons will have the following pattern:

- **Required reading** to be completed first, generally a chapter and/or excerpts from the textbook. This assignment is not worth points themselves, but you will need the information from the chapters to complete the other assignments, and these readings will be the basis for the Mid-Term and Final Exams for the course, so make sure you do the reading!
- **Annotation assignment**, using the built-in Hypothes.is software. For the annotation assignment, an article or other source will be provided and everyone in the course will comment on different parts of it, according to the directions given in the assignment and the Basic Information module.
- **Writing assignment** uploaded to Canvas. This will be a more traditional style assignment where you will write a paper using MLA formatting responding to a provided prompt.
- Sometimes, there will be other assignments, such as:
 - A **Discussion** assignment (like the "Greetings" assignment in Lesson 1)
 - The **Mid-Term** or **Final Exams**; 50-question exams based on the textbook reading covered in the first half and second half of the course, respectively.
 - **Final Argument Essay**: This assignment, worth more points than any other assignment in the course, is the main place where you will demonstrate your learning at the end of the semester. The essay process will include submitting a rough draft and getting feedback from me before submitting your final draft, due on the last day of class.

(all assignments are described in detail in the Basic Information module; this is merely an overview)

Due Dates

Assignments are due by 11pm on Sunday (PST) each week.

The only exceptions to this are the occasional Discussion posts, such as that assigned as part of Lesson 1. When completing a Discussion assignment, your main post responding to the question will be due by **11pm on the Friday** before your Sunday due date, in order to give your classmates a chance to respond before the Discussion Board closes on Sunday. Due dates for all assignments are given in the Calendar and at the bottom of the syllabus. You can submit your main post on Saturday or Sunday, but will lose points (see the "Grading" section for more information)

Final Expectations

1. Assignments are due on a weekly basis, and students are expected to complete all work by Sunday at 11pm, Pacific Standard Time (PST), as specified in the schedule.

2. While this course does involve a great deal of solitary study, it also emphasizes construction of knowledge, skills and abilities through social interaction and communication; therefore, discussion posts and annotations are shared with the other students in the class. Once these posts and annotations are submitted, they will be available to everyone in the class.

3. It is extremely important that everyone be respectful toward the members of this class. If any member of this class has a problem with another student, please let me know immediately. More information about online etiquette and consequences for noncompliance can be found on the "Basic Information" Lesson page.

4. If you encounter technical problems that prevent you from completing assignments, you need to let me know in a timely manner. I will do my best to help you trouble-shoot the problem. **Technical problems are not an acceptable excuse for not submitting assignments on time.** If you are unable to post your work through the usual channels, you should submit a copy of your assignment to me as an email attachment.

Course Text

- **Textbook:** *Everything's An Argument with Readings*, (9th edition) by Andrea Lunsford, John Ruszkiewicz, and Keith Walters. ISBN: 978-1-319-24447-7




You can locate and order textbooks online via the [SRJC Bookstore](http://bookstore.santarosa.edu/santarosa/home.aspx) (<http://bookstore.santarosa.edu/santarosa/home.aspx>) as well as many other online sources. If your class is based out of Petaluma, your books will be listed on the [Petaluma Bookstore](http://bookstore.santarosa.edu/petaluma/Home.aspx) (<http://bookstore.santarosa.edu/petaluma/Home.aspx>) web site.

Hardware and Software

Because this is an Internet-based class, students will need:

- A computer or laptop: do not try to take a class like this one on your phone! Even a tablet will present additional challenges. Don't have a computer? As an SRJC student you can **borrow a laptop for FREE** from the library for a semester (email librariessrjc@santarosa.edu (<mailto:librariessrjc@santarosa.edu>) or text 1-707-527-4550 for help with borrowing a free laptop for the semester via the SRJC Library Laptop Lending program). There are also more than a dozen computer labs for student use (list of locations at <https://it.santarosa.edu/computer-labs> (<https://it.santarosa.edu/computer-labs>).
- Reliable access to the Internet via a connection with enough bandwidth for video streaming
A recent version of Web browser software (such as Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, or Internet Explorer)
- An email account and the ability to access that account for sending and receiving messages

Because this is an online class in which students will be uploading essays and receiving feedback from peers and the instructor, students will need:

- To be able to create and open/view Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx) - many other programs have a "save as" feature by which you can convert.
 - If you would like, click the following link to see [how to save a Google Doc in MS Word](https://howdoi.daemen.edu/knowledge-base/how-to-save-a-google-doc-as-a-word-file/)  (<https://howdoi.daemen.edu/knowledge-base/how-to-save-a-google-doc-as-a-word-file/>) format.
 - There is also a FREE program available called Open Office that can create and open MS Word files: you can get more information at www.openoffice.org  (<http://www.openoffice.org>).
- The ability to view PDF files. Most browsers already have this capability, but if yours does not, you can get the FREE viewing program from adobe at <http://get.adobe.com/reader>  (<http://get.adobe.com/reader>).

Grading

Points

This course consists of 1200 points, divided the following way:

Assignment	#	Points per	Total Points
Annotation Assignments	13	20	260
Writing Assignments	13	25	325
Discussions	3	20	60
Midterm Exam	1	100	100
Final Exam	1	100	100
Final Paper Conference	1	30	30
Final Paper Rough Draft	1	25	25
Final Argument Paper	1	300	300
		TOTAL	1200

Grades follow the standard scale:

A = 90%-100% (1080 points or more)
B = 80%-89% (960-1079 points)
C = 70%-79% (840-959 points)

D = 60%-69% (720-839 points)

F = 59% and below (719 points or fewer)

Grades should be available in Canvas by one week after the assignment due date. I post an announcement each time all assignments for a Lesson are graded.

Late Assignments

I accept ***non-Discussion assignments*** up to one week late with the following penalties:

- 1-3 days late: 10% penalty
- 4-7 days late: 25% penalty
- more than 7 days late: not accepted

No assignments will be accepted after 11pm one week after the due date. Assignments can be completed at any time up to one week before the deadline. Please contact me if you have extenuating circumstances and need an extension.


Note: Discussion assignments will NOT be accepted late: this assignment type must be submitted by the Sunday at 11pm deadline to receive credit. No exceptions. There are very few Discussion assignments in the course, however.

Admin

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is vital for learning, so cheating or plagiarizing will not be tolerated. **Plagiarism** involves the representation of another's work as your own, for example: (a) submitting as one's own any material that is copied from published or unpublished sources such as the Internet, print, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores without proper acknowledgment that it is someone else's; (b) paraphrasing another's views, opinions or insights without proper acknowledgment or copying of any source in whole or in part with only minor changes in wording or syntax even with acknowledgment; (c) submitting as one's own work a report, examination, paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. **If you are unsure about what constitutes unauthorized help on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution, please get assistance. Violations will result penalties ranging from a zero for that assignment to a loss of points, depending on the severity of the infraction. For a second offense, penalties range from a zero on the assignment to failure of the course, and/or additional disciplinary actions.**

View SRJC policy (3.11) on Academic Integrity and the Student Conduct Code, which is in the SRJC Catalog and part of Policy 8.2.8, Student Discipline. You do have a right to due process should you wish to contest an allegation or penalty that you have received. Some useful links:

- [SRJC Writing Center Lessons on avoiding plagiarism](http://srjcwrittingcenter.com/research/plagiarism/plagiarism.html) 
(<http://srjcwrittingcenter.com/research/plagiarism/plagiarism.html>)
- [SRJC's statement on Academic Integrity](http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/3acadpro/3.11P.pdf) (<http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/3acadpro/3.11P.pdf>)

AI Use in this Course:

The use of generative AI is limited in this course. Specific assignments may allow it when it supports higher-order thinking, but only within set guidelines. Using generative AI for brainstorming and editing are acceptable, but drafting and final editing must be done entirely by the student. **Citations are required for any AI-generated content.**

Students With Disabilities

If you are student with a disability, if you have not done so, you are advised to register with the Disability Resources Department (DRD) as soon as possible in order to receive any accommodations that you qualify for. DRD is located in Analy Village on the Santa Rosa campus, and Petaluma Village on the Petaluma Campus.

Many additional links are available in the SRJC "Distance Ed Accessibility" page of SRJC Disability Resources Department ([Click here to access the Distance Ed Accessibility page](http://drd.santarosa.edu/distance-ed-accessibility)).
(<http://drd.santarosa.edu/distance-ed-accessibility>)

Every effort is made to conform to accessibility standards for all instructor-created materials. Students should contact their instructor as soon as possible if they find that they cannot access any course materials. Students with disabilities who believe they need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (527-4278) or the website link above.

Dropping the Class















If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time. It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row that you contact the instructor to avoid being dropped from the class.

How to Begin

Ready to get started on the course? Click the button below to move to the "Start Here" page to begin your critical thinking journey!

[Start Here \(https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/pages/start-here-2\)](https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/pages/start-here-2)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 9, 2025	 1. Lesson 1 Required Reading (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1316374) 	due by 11pm
	 2. L1 Discussion: Greetings! (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1316159) 	due by 11pm
	 3. Annotation Practice: Syllabus (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1315719) 	due by 11pm
	 4. Lesson 1 Writing: What is an Argument? (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1316359) 	due by 11pm
	 Lesson 2 Annotation: Japanese American Citizens League (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1316367) 	due by 11pm
	 Lesson 2 Required Reading (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1316375) 	due by 11pm
	 Lesson 2 Writing Assignment: Respond (https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/76228/assignments/1316376) 	due by 11pm