

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 ~ (800) 251-4299
Summer 2019

Course number & Name: ENG 117 – Advanced Composition

Credit hours: 4 quarter hours (IAI C1 901R)

Method of Delivery: Online

Prerequisite: ENG116

Description:

An advanced composition course designed to improve composition skills through writing essays that persuade and present an argument. The course also includes writing essays that analyze argumentative and persuasive essays. A research paper is required. Course fees may apply.

Text(s) and Manual(s):

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. NY: Signet, 1996. Print.

Topics:

1. Subjectivity, author's point of view, tone, voice
2. Audience awareness
3. Rhetorical skills: pathos and ethos
4. Essay writing
5. Research skills
6. Critical thinking
7. Prewriting skills
8. Proofreading, editing, and revising skills

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Through reading and writing, demonstrate an ability to understand information using critical thinking skills, including summarizing, analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing.
2. Through a series of drafts and revisions, develop essays that are organized, coherent, and contain a clear thesis and purpose aimed at a specific audience.
3. Develop and practice strategies of observation, summary, interpretation, analysis, and reflection as part of the process of inquiry and learning.
4. Discover the structure of their own thinking and develop effective strategies for analysis and communication.
5. Through reading and writing, demonstrate an understanding of style and tone.
6. Effectively address multiple audiences and varied rhetorical contexts for researched, analytic writing.
7. Demonstrate argumentative and persuasive skills via well-organized and supported essays.
8. Develop formal research strategies which involve using library resources and the Internet for gathering information.
9. Assessing the quality of information sources.
10. Demonstrate a proficiency of documenting sources according to APA documentation style techniques.
11. Develop an understanding and appreciation for scholarly criticism, and its application in a research project.
12. Perform substantive and stylistic revisions that address problems in communication.

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Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Late Work

1. Weekly attendance is based on whether or not you submitted any gradable work for the week, such as quizzes, written assignments, and discussion forums. However, if you attend a campus session, you will be counted as present for the week even if you do not complete gradable work.
2. Work from weeks 1-6 will not be accepted after midterm (Week 6), for any reason, even for late points. No exceptions. When I do accept late assignments, they will be subject to late points. Refer to individual assignment sheets for deadlines and specific point breakdown.
3. During Weeks 7-11, the same above policies apply.
4. Work from weeks 7-11 will not be accepted after (Week 11), for any reason, even for late points. No exceptions.

Instructor Information:

Dr. Steve Bortolotti

Office: 226 **Office hours:** Wednesday nights 4 -6 PM

692-4092 - ext. 2260

sbortolotti@midstate.edu

Policies and Procedures:

1. Weekly attendance is based on whether or not you submitted any gradable work for the week, such as quizzes, written assignments, and discussion forums. However, if you attend a campus session, you will be counted as present for the week even if you do not complete gradable work.
2. No assignments accepted past due dates, unless **you contact me beforehand; that is, do not miss a deadline and then ask to hand it in late.** If you know you will miss a deadline, plan on asking for an extension. I reserve the right to negotiate late submissions with students on a one-on-one basis.
3. Papers and other written assignments must follow the standards of written work established in the class via lectures and examples.
4. Students' written work will be typed using Microsoft Word; Times New Roman size 12 font; default margins.
5. It is the student's responsibility to keep all copies of papers and written assignments turned in for a grade. If a paper or other assignment is lost by the student or the instructor, the student is responsible for providing the instructor with another copy of the paper or assignment. Copies of the papers written in this course should be kept until the student receives his or her final grade for the quarter.
6. Students suspected of plagiarizing will be subject to the penalties outlined in the *Midstate College Student Handbook*.
7. Students are responsible for obtaining and keeping all handouts and notes.

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8. We will maintain an environment of mutual respect and courtesy in this class. That means turning off your cell phones and treating your fellow classmates and me with respect and deference. No foul or abusive language will be tolerated.

Late Work

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Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, by either paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success:

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 110 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 1100 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Principal Writing Assignments

There are four principal major writing assignments due in the class, two of which are considered research papers. The major writing assignments are as follows:

- **Précis Writing – 2 each 100 points**
Précés are abstracts. Two will be due in this class, one periodical source and one Internet source. The purpose of précis writing is to reinforce paraphrasing and APA documentation skills.
- **Proposition Paragraph – 100 points**
The proposition paragraph is a short assignment designed for students to take a stance on one side of a controversial issue using support evidence from a creditable source. This assignment is designed to reinforce of APA citation skills.
- **Literature Review – 100 points**
The Lit Review is a paper written by the students to report to the instructor of the status of individual research. Students are asked to supply three of the sources they have uncovered to

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date and report on their appropriateness, validity, usefulness, clarity. Students are also asked to supply the Question they plan to argue for the Argument Essay. Three sources are required.

➤ **Argument Essay – 150 points**

The Argument Essay is an essay in which students are asked to move beyond reinforcing existing personal opinions, and to test ideas against evidence or discover new ways of thinking about a topic. Using a logical progression in the essay, students are expected to present evidence in support of a controlling purpose in an attempt to persuade, with particular attention given to audience. Another purpose of the Argument Essay is to test basic research (APA) documentation and research skills.

This essay assignment includes documented, multi-source writing. Six to eight pages, 4-6 sources (Internet and print sources).

➤ **Critical Analysis – 150 points**

The Critical Analysis takes the form of a report in which students are asked explore background and critical information of an author and one of his/her works. Once again, the purpose of the report is to reinforce existing personal opinions, and to test ideas against evidence or discover new ways of thinking about a topic. Using a report format, students are expected to present information in an attempt to inform with facts and scholarly opinion. Another purpose of the Critical Analysis is to test basic research (APA) documentation and research skills. **Students must achieve a D or better in this research writing assignment to pass the course.**

This essay assignment includes documented, multi-source writing. Six to eight pages, 4-6 sources (Internet and print sources).

➤ **Quiz #1 – 25 points**

APA Slideshow Quiz

➤ **Quiz #2 – 10 points**

Animal Farm Slideshow Quiz.

➤ **Quiz – 35 points**

Animal Farm Quiz (book)

➤ **Source cards/Note cards – 50 points**

Two sets, each 25 points

➤ **Final Exam – 150 points**

Total number of points: 970 points

970 – 873 = A

872 – 776 = B

775 – 679 = C

659 – 582 = D

581 = F

Week 1:

Objectives:

- File naming conventions
- Introduction to Argument

Assignment:

- Create folder on H:drive to store files
- File naming conventions

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- Skills Test (Word, APA skills, following directions, file naming, punctuation, spelling)

Week 2:

Objectives:

- Paraphrasing skills
- APA documentation skills: print sources
- Argument Essay topic selection
- Source types exploration

Assignment:

- Précis 1: magazine article

Week 3:

Objectives:

- Paraphrasing skills (continued)
- APA documentation skills: Internet sources
- Argument Essay topic search
- Source types exploration (including online database search)

Assignment:

- Précis 2: Online news article

Week 4:

Objectives:

- Defending an argument stance
- Points of view

Assignment:

- Proposition Paragraph: Should flag burning be banned?
- Argument Essay topic declaration

Week 5:

Objectives:

- Collecting Argument Essay sources

Assignment:

- Proposition Paragraph: Should flag burning be banned?
- Declare a topic for Argument Essay
- Inquiry Brief and Source page

Week 6:

Objectives:

- Prewriting exercises: outlining and source/note cards demonstrations

Assignment:

- First draft outline
- Argument Essay source/note cards

Week 7:

Objectives:

- Drafting Argument Essay first draft
- Structure of an Argument Essay

Assignment:

- First draft Argument Essay

Week 7:

Objectives:

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- Revising skills

Assignment:

- Revising Argument Essay first draft

Week 8:

Objectives:

- George Orwell
- Historical context of *Animal Farm*

Assignment:

- Revising Persuasive Essay
- Final draft Persuasive Essay
- *Animal Farm* Slideshow quiz

Week 9:

Objectives:

- Goals of the Critical Analysis
- Historical context of *Animal Farm*

Assignment:

- Final draft Argument Essay
- *Animal Farm* quiz (book)
- Critical Analysis Essay Source/note cards

Week 10:

Objectives:

- Drafting Critical Analysis

Assignment:

- Developing an outline
- First draft Critical Analysis

Week 11:

Objectives:

- Revising Critical Analysis

Assignment:

- Final draft Critical Analysis

Week 12:

Finals week