

## CRITICAL READING, THINKING AND WRITING SPRING 2008

Dr. Casey Cothran

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Office: 237 Bancroft Hall; (803) 323-4632

Office Hours: 9:30-11:30 MW, 9:30-10:30 T, and by appointment

Classes: 10377 TR 2:00-3:15, Owens 210

10389 MW 2:00-3:15, Owens 109

### TEXTS:

Fukuyama, Francis. *Our Posthuman Future*. New York: Picador, 2002.

Harris, Muriel, ed. *Prentice Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice Hall

Nosich, Gerald. *Learning to Think Things Through* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

CRTW 201 is a course that focuses on critical reading, critical thinking, and deliberative/argumentative writing. It builds upon skills acquired in WRIT 101 and GNED 102. Students will read, write, and discuss, in an effort to further develop their skill as college writers and as critical thinkers. Course goals include:

1. To learn that the complex process of critical thinking is a part of all we do and that the process relies on such skills as observing, listening, reading, and writing.
2. To use writing, reading, speaking, and critical thinking to foster intellectual growth in an academic environment.
3. To recognize critical thinking and problem solving strategies in different academic disciplines and for different audiences.
4. To evaluate arguments, evidence, and the contexts in which they appear.
5. To prepare for writing by carefully analyzing evidence.
6. To plan, organize, and develop essays based on introspection, general observation, deliberation, research, and the critical reading of mature prose texts drawn from varied disciplines.
7. To learn to revise effectively by completely rethinking, restructuring, and rewriting essays.
8. To recognize individual writing voices and learn how those voices can be adapted to fit different audiences and rhetorical situations.
9. To improve oral communications skills through class discussions and small group activities.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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|--|-----|
| Paper 1, "A Critical Thinking Process Essay"         | 15% |
| Paper 2, "The Logic of Your Chosen Field" – in-class | 10% |
| Paper 3, "Gattica/Fukuyama Essay"                    | 15% |
| Researched Argumentative Essay                       | 25% |
| Final Exam   | 15% |
| Thinking Journal and Class Participation             | 20% |

## GRADING STANDARDS

A description of letter grades for writing assignments can be found at <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/rubric.htm>. Numerically, grades are as follows:

|        |    |              |    |
|--------|----|--------------|----|
| 93-100 | A  | 73-76        | C  |
| 90-92  | A- | 70-72        | C- |
| 87-89  | B+ | 67-69        | D+ |
| 83-86  | B  | 63-66        | D  |
| 80-82  | B- | 60-62        | D- |
| 77-79  | C+ | 59 and below | F  |

## PLAGIARISM POLICY

All work in this class that uses outside sources must be documented correctly in the MLA documentation style. Please review the English Department's policy on Using Borrowed Information at <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm>. You are responsible for reviewing the Code of Student Conduct in your *Student Handbook* and the description of plagiarism in *The Prentice-Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage* and handling source materials correctly. If you turn in plagiarized work, I reserve the right to assign you a failing grade for the course. The University Policy on Plagiarism is explained at <http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm> under section V, "Academic Misconduct."

We will be using [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) this semester; I will provide more information on that closer to the dates of those assignments. Papers not submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) will not be graded.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Winthrop policy is that students who miss more than 25% of the classes in a semester cannot receive credit for the course.

## LATE PAPER/ ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

Every day an assignment is late (including weekend days) is five points off the final grade. Daily writing assignments may be turned in early, but not late, unless you have an amazing excuse.

## STORAGE OF GRADED PAPERS

At the end of the semester, students' original graded papers must be filed in the department's storage room. The department keeps all students' papers from the course. If you want copies of your essays, make them before the end of the semester.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Ms. Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first accommodated assignment is due.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

I conduct most of my business with students using e-mail. If you do not have an e-mail account, go to 15 Tillman immediately to set it up. All class e-mail will be sent to your campus e-mail address, so make sure you set it to forward to any off-campus account you use (e.g. Comporium, AOL, Yahoo!, etc.) You must have a working Winthrop POBox e-mail address by the third day of class. All students must subscribe to the class listserve.

**You can find the syllabus and additional course materials on my website:**

**<http://faculty.winthrop.edu/cothranc>**

## CLASS SCHEDULE:

Note: assignments are due on the days next to which they appear.

| DATE                    | IN-CLASS DISCUSSION                  | HOMEWORK  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday<br>January 14    | Introduction                         |   |
| Wednesday<br>January 16 | Nosich, Chapter 1                    | LTTT: "To the Student" and 1-38; answer questions in two of the grey boxes                |
| Monday<br>January 21    | Martin Luther King Day<br>No classes |   |
| Wednesday<br>January 23 | Nosich, Chapter 1 (cont'd)           | LTTT: 1.5, 1.6, 1.10, begin thinking about 1.20*, 1.23*                                   |
| Monday<br>January 28    | Nosich, Chapter 2                    | LTTT: 45-77; exercise 2.1   |
| Wednesday<br>January 30 | Nosich, Chapter 2 (cont'd)           | LTTT: 2.7, 2.9, 2.10 (feel free to use any University textbook while answering questions) |
| Monday<br>February 4    | Nosich, Chapter 2 (cont'd)           | LTTT: answer question in grey box on p.71   |
| Wednesday<br>February 6 | <b>Paper 1 Due</b>                   |   |
| Monday<br>February 11   | Nosich, Chapter 3                    | LTTT: 87-127; answer questions in two of the grey boxes, begin 3.22*                      |
| Wednesday               | Thinking about your chosen field     | LTTT: 3.3 (focus on your major), 3.19   |

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|--------------------------|--|---|
| February 13              |  |   |
| Monday<br>February 18    | <b>Paper 2 (In-Class Essay)</b>                          |   |
| Wednesday<br>February 20 | Nosich, Chapter 4  | LTTT: 135-165; answer questions in two of the grey boxes            |
| Monday<br>February 25    | Nosich, Chapter 4 (cont'd)                               | LTTT: 4.4, begin 4.17*, 4.18*                                       |
| Wednesday<br>February 27 | Nosich, Chapter 5  | LTTT: 171-201; 5.8  |
| Monday<br>March 3        | Nosich, Chapter 5 (cont'd)<br>SEEI                       | LTTT: begin 5.21*   |
| Wednesday<br>March 5     | Fukuyama, Chapter 1<br>Discuss Research Paper Assignment | OPF: 1-17   |
| Monday<br>March 10       | Fukuyama, Chapter 2                                      | OPF: 18-40<br>Sufficiency in Ch. 2                                  |
| Wednesday<br>March 12    | Fukuyama, Chapter 3                                      | OPF: 41-56<br>Assumptions in Chapter 3                              |
| Monday<br>March 17       | SPRING BREAK   |   |
| Wednesday<br>March 19    | SPRING BREAK   |   |
| Monday<br>March 24       | Fukuyama, Chapter 4                                      | OPF: 57-71<br><b>Nosich Starred Items Due</b>                       |
| Wednesday<br>March 26    | Fukuyama, Chapters 5 and 6                               | OPF: 72-102   |
| Monday<br>March 31       | Conferences, no class                                    | Make and keep an appointment to discuss your essay with Dr. Cothran |
| Wednesday<br>April 2     | MLA Format Review  | Bring Prentice Hall Guide to Class                                  |
| Monday                   | <b>Researched Argumentative Essay Due</b>                |   |

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|-----------------------|---|--|
| April 7               |   |  |
| W April 9             | Fukuyama, Chapter 7   | OPF: 105-128<br>Precise/Imprecise in<br>Chapter 7    |
| Monday<br>April 14    | Fukuyama, Chapter 8   | OPF: 129-147   |
| Wednesday<br>April 16 | Fukuyama, Chapter 9   | OPF: 148-180<br>Concepts in Chapter 9                |
| Monday<br>April 21    | Fukuyama, Chapter 10 and 11<br>Watch <i>Gattaca</i> in class          | OPF: 181-202<br>Conclusions in Chapters 10<br>and 11 |
| Wednesday<br>April 23 | Fukuyama, Chapter 12<br>Watch <i>Gattaca</i> in class                 | OPF: 203-218   |
| Monday<br>April 28    | <b>Paper 3 Due</b>  |  |
|                       | <b>FINAL EXAM</b><br>MW: 3:00 Friday, May 2<br>TR: 3:00 Monday, May 5 |  |