

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*. 6th ed. Prentice Hall

Nosich, Gerald. *Learning to Think Things Through* 2nd 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:

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 this semester; I will provide more information on that closer to the dates of those assignments. Papers not submitted to 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
Tuesday January 15	Introduction	
Thursday January 17	Nosich, Chapter 1	LTTT: "To the Student" and 1-38; answer questions in two of the grey boxes
Tuesday January 22	Nosich, Chapter 1 (cont'd)	LTTT: 1.5, 1.6, 1.10, begin thinking about 1.20*, 1.23*
Thursday January 24	Nosich, Chapter 2	LTTT: 45-77; exercise 2.1
Tuesday January 29	Nosich, Chapter 2 (cont'd)	LTTT: 2.7, 2.9, 2.10 (feel free to use any University textbook while answering questions)
Thursday January 31	Nosich, Chapter 2 (cont'd)	LTTT: answer question in grey box on p.71
Tuesday February 5	Paper 1 Due	
Thursday February 7	Nosich, Chapter 3	LTTT: 87-127; answer questions in two of the grey boxes, begin 3.22*
Tuesday February 12	Thinking about your chosen field	LTTT: 3.3 (focus on your major), 3.19
Thursday	Paper 2 (In-Class Essay)	

February 14		
Tuesday February 19	Nosich, Chapter 4	LTTT: 135-165; answer questions in two of the grey boxes
Thursday February 21	No Class – work independently on starred assignments	LTTT: 4.4, begin 4.17*, 4.18*
Tuesday February 26	Nosich, Chapter 5	LTTT: 171-201; 5.8
Thursday February 28	Nosich, Chapter 5 (cont'd) SEEI	LTTT: begin 5.21*
Tuesday March 4	Fukuyama, Chapter 1 Discuss Research Paper Assignment	OPF: 1-17
Thursday March 6	Fukuyama, Chapter 2	OPF: 18-40 Sufficiency in Ch. 2
Tuesday March 11	Fukuyama, Chapter 3	OPF: 41-56 Assumptions in Chapter 3
Thursday March 13	Fukuyama, Chapter 4	OPF: 57-71 Nosich Starred Items Due
Tuesday March 18	SPRING BREAK	
Thursday March 20	SPRING BREAK	
Tuesday March 25	Fukuyama, Chapters 5 and 6	OPF: 72-102
Thursday March 27	Conferences, no class	Make and keep an appointment to discuss your essay with Dr. Cothran
Tuesday April 1	MLA Format Review	Bring Prentice Hall Guide to Class
Thursday April 3	Researched Argumentative Essay Due	
Tuesday	Fukuyama, Chapter 7	OPF: 105-128 Precise/Imprecise in

April 8		Chapter 7
Thursday April 10	Fukuyama, Chapter 8	OPF: 129-147
Tuesday April 15	Fukuyama, Chapter 9	OPF: 148-180 Concepts in Chapter 9
Thursday April 17	Fukuyama, Chapter 10 and 11 Watch <i>Gattaca</i> in class	OPF: 181-202 Conclusions in Chapters 10 and 11
Tuesday April 22	Fukuyama, Chapter 12 Watch <i>Gattaca</i> in class	OPF: 203-218
Thursday April 24	Paper 3 Due	
	FINAL EXAM MW: 3:00 Friday, May 2 TR: 3:00 Monday, May 5	