Required Texts and Documents: 
Gerald Nosich, Learning to Think Through Things (2nd edition)
Francis Fukuyama, Our Posthuman Future
“The Correct Use of Borrowed Information.” Access and print this document at www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm or use the department web page.

IF YOU DO NOT BRING BOOKS TO EACH CLASS, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THAT DAY.

Purpose of the Course: As the title indicates, this course focuses on critical reading, critical thinking, and deliberative/argumentative writing and builds upon skills acquired in WRIT 101 and GNED 102. You should already be able to develop a strong thesis, do basic research, correctly incorporate borrowed information, use an argumentative structure for your essays, and write reasonably sophisticated and grammatically correct prose. We will attempt to reinforce and improve those skills while simultaneously learning some new critical thinking skills.

Our goals include, but are certainly not limited to, the following list:

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 recognize and classify logical fallacies in the writing of others and avoid such fallacies in our own work.
6. To prepare for writing by carefully analyzing evidence and rejecting myth.
7. To plan, organize, and develop argumentative essays based on introspection, general observation, deliberation, research, and critical reading of mature prose texts drawn from various disciplines.
8. To stress the importance of clear communication by teaching students to revise effectively through the complete rethinking, restructuring, and rewriting of essays.
9. To recognize individual writing voices and learn how those voices can be adapted to fit different audiences and rhetorical situations.
10. To improve oral communications skills through class discussions and small group discussions.
11. To use reading, writing, critical thinking, and research as means of general cognitive development and as activities that foster intellectual growth in an academic environment.
12. To encourage students to see writing as a learning tool that is important in all contexts and is not confined to the writing classroom.
13. To encourage independent critical thinking.

Evaluation and Grading Scale: I will grade all essays according to the Department of English rubric found at http://www.winthrop.edu/english/rubric.htm. Please print out a copy of this guideline for frequent reference. In addition, I will be using Winthrop’s new plus/minus grading system (breakdown below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1: Out-of-class</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2: In-class</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 3: Out-of-Class</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 4: Independent Research Argument (6 to 8 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average of Group Oral Presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</table>
In addition, I will be using the plus/minus grading system activated by Winthrop administration last year. My personal numerical span for each grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum Grade Requirement:** Students must earn at least a C- in CRTW 201 to receive credit for the course. CRTW 201 is a prerequisite for many upper-level courses and is required for graduation. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED AT THE TIME REQUIRED DURING THE SEMESTER, OR A STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE SEMESTER.**

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is vital to your continued growth and improvement as a critical thinker and writer, especially in light of the collaborative nature of this class. You cannot expect to earn a satisfactory grade if you do not attend class. Therefore, you are not allowed to miss more than three (3) classes during the semester without penalty. Your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade for each absence beyond three. Two tardies (“late shows”) constitute one absence.

**Due Dates:** Each student is expected to turn in a hard copy of his/her work on time. Any paper handed to me beyond the start of the regular class meeting (I will take up essays within the first five [5] minutes of class in your manila envelope, including drafts and working papers) will be penalized by one whole letter grade. Papers that are more than one day late will not be accepted for grading and will receive a grade of zero. “Technology breakdowns” are not accepted as excuses for failure to turn in assignments promptly. Plan for contingencies. **Likewise, absence from class does not constitute an excuse for submitting late work. ALL work must be completed and submitted to receive a passing grade in this course.**

**Written Work:** All work must be typed and double spaced – which includes rough/working drafts of essays. Do not print out material on the back of a page.

**Portfolios:** All graded papers must be kept and housed aesthetically in a folder to be handed in at the end of the semester (usually on exam day). If you do not have a complete folder to turn in, you will receive a grade of F for the course. These folders will be kept on file by Winthrop’s English Department for a minimum period of three (3) years, so make copies of your papers if you would like to have a personal record of them. Graded assignments not returned for storage will be averaged as zeroes into your final grade. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to maintain this portfolio throughout the semester.

**Class Participation:** As with any course, your participation is mandatory. I expect each student to be prepared to be involved actively in all class discussions. You will probably discover that some of the reading this semester may express ideas contrary to your own thinking and values. Therefore, we must discuss the issues at length in a respectful manner. Students who contribute relevant and thought-provoking discussion on a regular basis will be rewarded, of course, with higher participation grades than those who remain silent or those who appear to be unprepared.

**Policy on “N” Grades:** After the first “drop date” of the semester, I will **ONLY** consider offering an “N” grade to students who have extremely extenuating circumstances that can be documented in writing, who have turned in all assignments on time, and who have a passing grade to that point in the semester.

**Technology Requirements:** I conduct much of our business using email (such as major handouts). If you do not have a Winthrop email account, go to 15 Tillman immediately to set one up. You must have a working Winthrop P.O. Box email address within one week of the beginning of class! **All students must subscribe to the class listserv. If you do not have reliable computer access, then you should probably seek out another section of CRTW 201 with less expectation of technology use.**

**Turnitin.com Policy:** We will be using [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) this semester for all essay assignments. Papers not submitted to this source will **NOT** receive a grade.
Other Expectations:  
- If you are not enthusiastic about this course, then fake it! The number of weeks in a semester is not forever! You must actively participate to succeed in this course.
- Attentive and courteous behavior is expected at all times, including during animated discussions.
- Cell phones and other communication devices must be turned off during class time. If such a device disrupts the class, then you will be assigned an absence for that day and will be unable to make up missed work. In some cases, you might lose the device altogether.
- Failure to prepare for a class and/or assignment does not constitute an emergency (or any sympathy) on my part.
- I expect to see visible signs that you are doing the work required in this course, such as annotations in your book, some type of journal entries, reading notes, etc. If I do not, your class participation grade will suffer significantly.
- You should sleep in your rooms or wherever, not in my class. If you do, it will be an absence.
- If some life crisis arises that will involve your missing class, you must tell me as soon as you realize this—don’t disappear for three weeks and then come back expecting me to accommodate your needs for time missed—or to excuse you.
- Please push yourselves mentally. Your mind is your greatest asset; don’t succumb to the easy line of thinking!

Required Supplies:  
1. A good dictionary
2. A spiral notebook (please bring this to class every day).
3. A packet of large index cards
4. A back-up disk (save early, save often; "the computer 'ate' my paper" is not a valid excuse; e-mailing your work to yourself is a good safeguard)
5. A stapler (all work submitted in this class must be stapled)
6. A Winthrop University e-mail address (I may e-mail reminders through the system, and you are welcome to use the list server as well: CRTW 201***@class.winthrop.edu; however, bear in mind that hitting “reply” will send your message to everyone in the class; at the *** plug in your section number).

Plagiarism:  
Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in “Works Cited”)—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. It is also a violation of the Student Conduct Code http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm. The English Department has prepared The Correct Use of Borrowed Information to explain plagiarism (see www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm). You will be required to print out this statement, sign the last page, and bring it to class when required by your instructor. Ignorance or failure to consult this material is no excuse. Those students exhibiting gross plagiarism in this class will receive one of these disciplinary actions: (1) the essay will receive an F, (2) the student will fail the class, or (3) the student will be turned in to the judicial committee for further disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities:  
Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your Professor Notification Form, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first {test/paper/assignment}.

Writing Center:  
The Writing Center provides support for all students in all Winthrop classes free of charge. It is located in 242 Bancroft (x-2138). Check its web page (www.winthrop.edu/wcenter) for current hours.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE POLICIES, CONDITIONS, AND CLASS EXPECTATIONS.  
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