

# College of the Siskiyous

## English 1C: Advanced Critical Thinking and Writing

August 17-December 17, 2009

CRN: 0440

Instructor: Victoria Sansome

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Office Hours: Private Message area

Since I am online many hours most days, I am available most of the time.

### Required Textbooks and Materials

- Maasik & Solomon *Signs of Life in the USA 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*
- Browne & Keeley *Asking the Right Questions 8<sup>th</sup> ed.*
- A good college dictionary

***You must buy books immediately since reading and work will be assigned the first week of class.***

***You must log onto our class site the first day of class and complete at least one of the assignments in Module 1.***

This class uses the ETUDES-NG system. If you are unfamiliar with ETUDES-NG, I recommend you work through the free online orientation to the system. If you go the

**College of the Siskiyous Etudes - Student Help** webpage, you will find links to several ETUDES-NG demonstrations. ETUDES-NG is different than ETUDES-Classic. Even if you have used ETUDES-Classic, I strongly recommend you watch all the ETUDES-NG demos.

If you are a disabled student and need special accommodations, please let me know.

Also, please contact the Disabled Students Resource Center

<http://www.siskiyous.edu/dsps/>

If this is your first online class, I suggest you read over this helpful COS webpage:

**Online Survival Guide**

## Technology Required

The following software are minimum specifications to work with the ETUDES-NG application:  
Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP, or Vista; MacOS 9 or MacOSX.

Hardware: 64 MB of Ram, 1G of free space  
Software: Preferred Microsoft Word

Browser: Students must have access to Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, which can be downloaded free via Microsoft or Firefox. Java and cookies must be enabled.

Modem: 56 K, but DSL or cable modem prefer.

If this is your first online course, I want to dispel first thing any notion you might have that this class will be easier than if you took an on-campus course. You will be earning the same number of units as an on-campus course and you will therefore be required to complete the same amount of work. Specifically, this class will require from 10-15 hours or more of your time each week, including the reading, writing and online activities required. If you are not prepared to spend the proper amount of time on the course, you might want to rethink taking this course. I am not trying to scare you away, but I want to prepare you for what lies ahead. You will need to be disciplined and keep up on the work because the modules will become available every Monday morning at 8:00 AM and close the following Sunday evening. It is important not to get behind.

Important note: An online course is not a self-paced course. Due dates will vary, so you cannot assume that you can do all your work on weekends. Since I will send announcements on a regular basis, you must check your email on a regular basis.

## Course Description

English 1C is a rigorous, transfer-level course designed to provide advanced composition and critical thinking instruction beyond the English 1A level. This course will focus on instruction in close reading and continue application of the elements of logic in composition with an emphasis on critical thinking in argumentation. This course will also focus on the analysis of the writing process and principles in rhetoric.

To ensure success in this course, you must plan log on to our class at least 5-6 days a week, be fully prepared with reading and homework complete, and participate fully. Contact me as soon as you have a question or problem.

In order to be successful participants in this course, and in college in general, I believe that high standards for work, self-discipline, and responsibility for your own education are essential.

## Course Objectives

- \* Read analytically by identifying and stating the main idea, thesis/claim/conclusion in argumentative discourse.
- \* Identify the methods of logic used in argument.
- \* Distinguish between and determine the validity of opinions, judgments, and factual statements.
- \* Recognize and articulate both stated and inferred assumptions in an argument.
- \* Recognize cultural and gender biases in written arguments.
- \* Demonstrate a clear awareness of intended audience for an essay and write clearly that audience using appropriate diction and syntax, demonstrating an accurate synthesis of related ideas.
- \* Identify and use abstract language skills, including skills, including logical fallacies.

In this course you will demonstrate critical thinking skills in ETUDES-NG discussion and written essays. You will also learn to analyze the relationship between meaning in readings and language manipulation--including literal and figurative language, connotation, and denotation; evaluate and analyze the relationship between meaning and the use of sophisticated rhetorical forms and strategies; identify unstated premises and hidden assumptions which arise from the social, historical, moral, cultural, psychological, or aesthetic contexts in which the primary texts and the critical writings which apply to them exist. You will also learn to recognize the similarities and differences between the intentions, biases, assumptions, and arguments of an author and his/her character(s); distinguish between fact, inference, and judgment, recognizing that many reasonable inferences can be derived from the same facts; and

draw and justify inferences about a work.

## Preparation and Participation

Since this is an advanced composition and critical thinking course, you must already possess proficient reading and writing skills; I expect you to be able to read and comprehend a 30-40 page college-level essay in one sitting without getting “bored” or distracted in the process. Writing a reasonably coherent, well-developed essay should not seem like an impossible task to you! A grade of C or better in English 1A here at COS or an equivalent course elsewhere is only a bare minimum prerequisite, and is no guarantee that you are prepared for this class.

## Course Overview

The heavy reading load for English 1C means a considerable time commitment on your part. For you to maximize your success in the course, you are expected to complete all of the assigned readings so that you are adequately prepared to discuss, teach, and/or write about them. You are also expected to take careful notes as you read to aid you as you post to the Discussion Board Forums, participate in group work, and they will also be valuable as you shape your ideas into essays. Reading and responding to your reading is essential for you to responsibly contribute to your learning community. For these goals to be achieved, you must actively engage in the texts, both in the online discussions and out of class. You must log in and participate in class discussions, so plan to commit at least 10-15 hours or more for work in this class. You should plan to log on to ETUDES-NG at least 5-6 times per week to see responses to your postings and comments from me on your work. There will be a number of Discussion Board postings every week, and you will be required to fully address at least 2-4 discussion board topics and respond to at least 2-4 classmates’ postings as assigned. To ensure success in this course, do the assigned readings, be prepared, and participate fully in discussion board postings.

## Coursework

- readings
- ETUDES-NG discussions and peer group work
- three formal essays ranging in length
- teach / lead discussion on assigned of assigned reading (to be discussed later)
- one 8-10 page MLA style synthesis paper
- weekly reading quizzes (if needed)
- final exam