

**English 104: Critical Thinking and Argumentation**  
**Fall 2008 MWF 8:15-9:16AM in LB 200 Ticket #2743**  
**Fall 2008 MWF 9:30-10:31AM in LB 210 Ticket #2749**

**INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Sarah McLemore OFFICE: AD 246 PHONE: x3122**  
**EMAIL: sarahm@glendale.edu**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 3:45-5:45; Tuesday 4:45-5:45**

**GCC Catalog Description of English 104**

English 104 is designed to be a continuation of English 101. Consequently, the primary focus of the course is instruction in writing. In addition, students learn to read and think critically and to develop their analytical and argumentative writing skills. The course takes students beyond the level of English 101 by providing a more advanced understanding of the relationship of language to logic and by further promoting the ability to reason effectively and reach valid conclusions. Writing forms and strategies are taught within the contexts of contemporary ideas and cultural diversity, as reflected in selected readings. Prerequisite: English 101

**Introduction and Course Objectives**

Welcome to English 104! In this course we'll read, write, think about, and discuss a variety of sources. In our examination of these texts we'll gain the ability to think, read, and write critically as students who are aware of different genres of writing. You'll also learn how to apply the skills we use to analyze texts in other facets of your life and in examining many other types of writing. While this is a class taught through the English Division of GCC, it is also designed to prepare you to write in a variety of different academic disciplines. As a consequence, you'll be reading materials which are related to issues of obedience, terror, tyranny, and identity. This class is what I like to call a "liscussion" or a "dilecture"—it's composed of lots of discussion based activities supplemented by occasional short lectures. Your active and engaged participation in the course will make it significantly more fun and interesting. I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas about the texts and the course as much as possible.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

**Reading:** Critically read and evaluate expository and persuasive culturally diverse texts which address current issues. Identify thesis or unifying theme of text and traditional use of reasoning and logic. Identify and evaluate supporting evidence for relevance and accuracy and evaluate text in terms of diction, tone, and unity.

**Research:** Demonstrate appropriate application of supporting evidence from primary and secondary sources. Evaluate evidence in terms of accuracy, relevance, and freedom from faulty assumptions.

**Writing:** Write sophisticated, coherently structured, mechanically sound expository and persuasive essays which address current issues.

**Required Texts and Materials**

**Course Reader (CR) available in the GCC Bookstore**

**Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario available in the GCC Bookstore**

**A notebook to be used to take notes inside and outside of class**

**A binder to keep your notes and handouts for our course**

**A simple folder or portfolio to use to turn in your class portfolios**

**A flashdrive or floppy disk (to save your work for our class)**

## COURSE POLICIES

### Grading

**5 points Essay # 1 (Can a Story be an Argument?) DUE Wednesday, September 24**

**5 points In Class Essay #1 (Politics and Argumentation) Monday, September 29**

**5 points Logical Fallacy Assignment DUE DATE TBD**

**10 points Essay #2 (Obedience to Authority) DUE Monday, November 3**

**10 points In Class Essay #2 (Enrique's Journey) Wednesday, November 12**

**5 points Annotated Bibliography DUE Wednesday, November 5**

**5 points Dictatorship Definition DUE Friday, November 21**

**15 points Essay #3 (The World's Worst Dictator) DUE** during the final exam time for your class if you're in my 9:30-10:31 section; the due date for my 8:15-9:16 section is TBD.

**10 points In Class Essay #3 (V for Vendetta) during the final exam time for your course**

**10 points Reading Quizzes** (the number of quizzes is negotiable and depends on your class's participation. Good participation as a class = fewer quizzes).

**5 points Verified Attendance at 3 GCC library workshops of your choice.** You must attend these workshops by Wednesday, October 8 to receive these points. **This is an early deadline; plan accordingly.**

**15 points Participation and other homework** (turning in articles for your annotated bibliography on time, enthusiastically participating in your logical fallacy skit, etc.)

**Equaling...100 points total**

**100-90 = A**

**90-80=B**

**80-70=C**

**Anything below a 70 is not a passing grade**

**69-60=D**

**59-below =F**

**Class Attendance:** It is mandatory that you attend class. **After six absences from our class you will be dropped or you will not receive a passing grade in the course. There is no such thing as an excused absence.** You will not receive credit for any written assignments which are not completed on time and turned in to me on time in the manner which is requested on the syllabus. Furthermore, failure to attend class will result in a lowered attendance and participation grade because you can't participate unless you're in class.

**Being Dropped From this Course or Not Passing This Course:** You will be dropped from this course or will not pass this course for the following reasons:

- 1) You miss either the first or second day of our course**
- 2) You have six absences for this course before the first half of the term.**
- 3) You have more six absences for this course *total* in the second half of the term (example: you might have one absence in the first half of the course and five in the second).**
- 4) You do not receive a passing grade on your graded work in this class (total number of points in class is less than 70 points in my class).**

**Participation:** It is vital that you participate in class discussion and activities. Failure to do so will affect your final grade. You are required to participate in a manner that shows cultural sensitivity and respect for people's opinions, orientations, backgrounds, and choices. You are expected to come to class prepared. Read all the texts listed on the syllabus for the date, bring a notebook and a pencil to class, and think about what issues, questions, and ideas you might want to raise in class. You also need to arrive in class on time with all of your assignments completed. Tardiness is not acceptable. Tardiness will adversely affect your grade. Two or more tardies (being 5 minutes or more late from class) will count as one absence. Leaving class early will be counted as a tardy. If students leaving class in the middle of the class and returning to class

becomes a repeated issue I will make it a policy that any instance in which a student leaves class and returns to class will be counted as a tardy.

**Turning in Your Work and Make-Up Work:** All work is due on the date assigned in the syllabus. I generally collect work at the beginning of class. If you fail to turn in work when I collect it I will probably not accept it. I do not accept email submissions of work. If you're absent from class, find someone to turn in a hard copy of any assignments which are due.

I do not generally accept make-up work. For absences due to severe illness, death in the family, and other documented excuses then you will probably be able to make up your work.

**PUT THE CONTACT INFORMATION OF SOMEONE FROM OUR CLASS HERE SO YOU CAN CONTACT THEM TO TURN IN YOUR WORK IF YOU NEED TO MISS CLASS:**

**Academic Integrity:** All of the work you turn in must be entirely your own. **Plagiarism or academic dishonesty which involves taking others' ideas and words and including them in your work for our class is unacceptable** and I report incidents of academic dishonesty to the appropriate authorities on campus. If I find that you have plagiarized any work that you have turned in for our class you will either fail the assignment and/or be in danger of failing the course depending on the severity of the incident of plagiarism. Do not attempt to pass off the words or ideas of another as your own. Plagiarism is a serious offense that bears serious consequences; it is not worth the risk so be sure to cite your sources. I am **always** available should a question on this or any other matter pertaining to the class arise. The following link will take you to the GCC library's very useful and comprehensive handout on avoiding plagiarism: <http://www.glendale.edu/library/libins/icweb/Handouts/Plagiarism.htm>. Please also see the handout in this syllabus packet on plagiarism.

**Feedback/Office Hours:** I strongly encourage you to meet with me during office hours or by appointment. These meetings can serve as an essential role as a consultation regarding your progress at any stage during this course. You can also feel free to ask questions or chat about other matters pertaining to the study of literature, job choices, internships, transferring, etc. I'm really happy to meet with you and am looking forward to getting to know all of you!

**Cell Phones, Pagers, Blackberries, Ipods, Sidekicks, and other signifiers of modern life:** Out of respect for your classmates, **turn off** all portable electronic devices before class and take them off your desk. If I see you using a portable device I will generally follow these procedures 1) I will give you a verbal warning to remove the device 2) I may reserve the right to confiscate it for the remainder of that day's class 3) I will ask you to leave the class and I will report you to the Dean of Students office. More importantly, if I remind you to remove a device from your desk and/or cease using it you can bet that your participation grade will be negatively affected. Keep cell phones far away from me or risk dire grade consequences.

**Special Needs:** If you have any special needs such as those addressed by the Disabled Student Center or High-Tech Center please feel free to discuss them with me early in the course so that you may file the necessary paperwork.

**Library Workshop Attendance:** Your participation grade is determined in part by your completion of three workshops at the GCC library: You need to attend three of the workshops by **Wednesday, October 8. This is a really early deadline and it's important that you meet it to succeed in the assignments for our course! Failure to do so will result in a loss of 5 total points in our course.** All library workshops are free and a great resource to use as a GCC student. For an updated schedule of workshops please visit: <http://www.glendale.edu/library/IC/LibWorkshops/wkshop.htm>.

## Course Schedule

*Please note that the last day to drop this course through Admissions and Records with a "W" notation is November 22.*

*Please note that this schedule of assignments and course content is subject to change. I will announce all changes in class. Be in class on time to make sure you hear of any changes.*

### Wednesday, September 3

**In Class:** Introductions

#### **Homework**

**Purchase:** Course Reader and *Enrique's Journey* (both available from the GCC bookstore). Purchase all course supplies. There will be a Course Reader and supply check on Monday. If you don't have the reader and the supplies you'll be marked absent.

**Read:** "Bigfoot Stole My Wife" by Ron Carlson (attached to syllabus)

**Sign Up:** Register electronically for three GCC library workshops. You must have completed three GCC library workshops by October 8 or you will lose 5 points in our class. Also, I will not read your articles/annotations until you've completed these workshops.

### Friday, September 5

**In Class:** Discuss "Bigfoot Stole My Wife"; Credibility and evidence

#### **Homework**

**Read:** "Silk Parachute" by John McPhee (CR)

**Purchase:** Course Reader and *Enrique's Journey* (both available from the GCC bookstore). Purchase all course supplies. There will be a Course Reader and supply check on Monday. If you don't have the reader and the supplies you'll be marked absent.

**Sign Up:** Register electronically for three GCC library workshops. You must have completed three GCC library workshops by October 8 or you will lose 5 points in our class. Also, I will not read your articles/annotations until you've completed these workshops.

### Monday, September 8

**In Class:** Discuss "Silk Parachute"; Credibility and evidence

#### **Homework**

**Read:** "Bullet in the Brain" by Tobias Wolff (CR)

### Wednesday, September 10

**In Class:** Discuss "Bullet in the Brain" and "Silk Parachute"

#### **Homework**

**Read:** "Stillness" by Courtney Angela Brkic (CR)

### Friday, September 12

**In Class:** Discuss "Stillness"; Ethos and Pathos

#### **Homework**

**Read:** "Arguments from the Heart" (CR)

### Monday, September 15

**In Class:** Ethos and Pathos

#### **Homework**

**Read:** "Arguments Based on Character" (CR)

**Optional Assignment:** Write Rough Draft for Essay # 1 due Wednesday, September 17

### Wednesday, September 17

**In Class:** Ethos and Pathos

#### **Homework**

**Read:** "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (CR)

**Friday, September 19**

**In Class:** Discuss “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb”

**Homework**

**Read:** “Arguments Based on Fact and Reason” (CR)

**Monday, September 22**

**In Class:** Discuss “Logos”

**Homework**

**Read:** *Parade Magazine’s* annual list of “The World’s Worst Dictators” available online at <http://www.parade.com/dictators/2008/>

**Wednesday, September 24**

**In Class:** Essay #1 due at the beginning of class—NO EXCEPTIONS. Politics and Argumentation

**Homework**

**Investigate:** *The Living Room Candidate* website: <http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/>

**Pick:** A dictatorship that you plan to research for your final essay in this class (Essay #3).

**Friday, September 26**

**In Class:** Politics and Argumentation

**Homework**

**Review:** Political campaign advertisement

**Prepare:** In Class Essay #1

**Pick:** A dictatorship that you plan to research for your final essay in this class (Essay #3). You can use *Parade’s* list to guide you or you can consult websites such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

**Monday, September 29**

**In Class:** In Class Essay #1

**Homework**

**Read:** “Fallacies of Argument” (CR)

**Pick:** A dictatorship that you plan to research for your final essay in this class (Essay #3). You can use *Parade’s* list to guide you or you can consult websites such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

**Wednesday, October 1**

**In Class:** Logical Fallacies

**Homework**

**Re-read:** “Fallacies of Argument” (CR)

**Write:** A one paragraph typewritten statement of which dictator you’ve chosen to research and why.

**Friday, October 3**

**In Class:** Logical Fallacies

**Homework**

**Re-read:** “Fallacies of Argument”

**Prepare:** Skits

**Write:** Discovery Draft for Essay #3 due Monday, October 6

**Monday, October 6**

**In Class:** Skits; library research

**Homework**

**Research/Find:** Find two electronic or print sources on your dictator for Essay #3. Print each out and bring to class on Wednesday, October 8 to receive credit.

**Wednesday, October 8**

**In Class:** Obedience to Authority; dictatorship sources

**Homework**

**Read:** "The Perils of Obedience" by Stanley Milgram (CR)

**Friday, October 10**

**In Class:** Discuss "The Perils of Obedience"; introduce essay assignment

**Homework**

**Read:** "The Stanford Prison Experiment" by Phillip Zimbardo (CR)

**Research/Find:** An article of your choice from *Proquest* which represents an example of obedience to authority you would like to investigate. Bring the article to class on Monday to receive credit.

**Write:** Discovery Draft of Essay #2 due in class on Monday, October 13

**Monday, October 13**

**In Class:** Discuss "The Stanford Prison Experiment" (CR); discuss your articles and Discovery Drafts

**Homework**

**Read:** Introduction and Chapter 1 of *Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)* (CR)

**Write:** Annotations for your first two sources for Essay #3

**Wednesday, October 15**

**In Class:** Discuss *Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)*; discuss essay assignment

**Homework**

**Write:** Rough Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, October 20)

**Read:** "The Organization Kid" by David Brooks (CR)

**Friday, October 17**

**In Class:** Discuss "The Organization Kid"

**Homework**

**Write:** Rough Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, October 20)

**Monday, October 20**

**In Class:** "Peer Review"; discussion of Essay #3

**Homework**

**Research/Find:** Three additional print or electronic sources to use in Essay #3. Bring to class on Wednesday, October 22 to receive credit.

**Wednesday, October 22**

**In Class:** Catch Up Day

**Homework**

**Read:** *Enrique's Journey* prologue through page 60

**Friday, October 24**

**In Class:** Discuss *Enrique's Journey*

**Homework**

**Read:** *Enrique's Journey* 60-135

**Write:** Annotations for your 2 sources for Essay #3

**Monday, October 27**

**In Class:** Discuss *Enrique's Journey*

**Homework**

**Read:** *Enrique's Journey* 137-169

**Write:** Final Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, November 3)

**Wednesday, October 29**

**In Class:** Discuss *Enrique's Journey*

**Homework**

**Read:** *Enrique's Journey* 169-196

**Write:** Final Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, November 3)

**Friday, October 31**

**In Class:** Discuss *Enrique's Journey*

**Homework**

**Read:** *Enrique's Journey* 196-end

**Write:** Final Draft of Essay #2 (due Monday, November 3)

**Monday, November 3**

**In Class:** Essay #2 due at the beginning of class—no exceptions; discuss *Enrique's Journey*

**Homework**

**Read:** Make sure you've finished *Enrique's Journey*

**Write:** Annotated Bibliography for Essay #3 (revise any of the 5 annotations you wrote which need revisions; make sure that your completed annotated bibliography includes copies of each source—you need 5 sources total).

**Wednesday, November 5**

**In Class:** Peer Review of annotated bibliographies; discuss *Enrique's Journey* and your upcoming essays

**Friday, November 7**

**In Class:** Catch up day

**Homework**

**Read:** Chapter 1 of *1984* (CR); the first episode of *V for Vendetta* (CR)

**Monday, November 10 VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS**

**Homework**

**Read:** Chapter 1 of *1984* (CR); the first episode of *V for Vendetta* (CR)

***Wanna get ahead? Then read*** "On Modern Tyranny" by Daniel Chirot and "The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship" by Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski both in CR

**Wednesday, November 12**

**In Class:** In Class Essay #2

**Homework**

**Re-read:** *V for Vendetta* and *1984*

**Re-read:** Discovery Draft, Annotated Bibliography, and articles for Essay #3

**Friday, November 14**

**In Class:** Discuss literary dictatorships

**Homework**

**Read:** “On Modern Tyranny” by Daniel Chirot and “The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship” by Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski both in *CR*

**Monday, November 17**

**In Class:** Discuss Dictatorships

**Homework**

**Write:** Dictatorship Definition due Friday, November 21

**Wednesday, November 19**

**In Class:** Discuss Dictatorships

**Homework**

**Write:** Dictatorship Definition due Friday, November 21

**Friday, November 21**

**In Class:** Share definitions; drafting thesis statements and outlines

**Homework**

**Write:** Thesis statement and essay outline due Monday, December 1

**Monday, December 1**

**In Class:** Library workshop day

**Homework**

**Write:** Rough Draft of essay

**Wednesday, December 3**

**In Class:** Watch *V for Vendetta*

**Homework**

**Write:** Rough Draft of essay due Friday, December 5

**Friday, December 5**

**In Class:** Watch *V for Vendetta*

**Homework**

**Write:** Final Draft of Essay due *at the latest* on Monday, December 15th

**Monday, December 8 Last Day of class**

**Homework**

**Write:** Final Draft of Essay

**Prepare:** For In Class Essay #3 (Final Exam)

Wednesday, December 10 between 7:30-10 AM is the Final Exam time for  
English 104 MWF 9:30-10:31

Monday, December 15 between 7:30-10AM is the Final Exam Time for  
English 104 M, W, F 8:15-9:16.

Have a great break! Hope to see you around in the spring!