

# HONR 345 - Advanced Academic Argument

Professor W. T. Casey, Ph.D.

UC 224

x-6664

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Tuesdays 1700-1945 in UC 324

**Effective Date: Fall 2012**

Course Number: 80377

Semester Credit Hours: 3

**I. Course Description-** An examination of the concepts and approaches used in argumentations.

**II. Textbooks/Resources:**

- **Required**

Behrens and Rosen, 2011. *Writing & Reading Across the Curriculum*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Longman. ISBN 9780205727650 (hereafter WRAC)

Kearney 1996, *Continental Philosophy Reader*, Routledge ISBN 9780415095266 (hereafter CPR)

- **Suggested (STRONGLY)**

Hurley, 2012. *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 11th Edition, Cengage. ISBN 0840034172

- **Recommended:**

Hofstadter. 1979, (1999) *Gödel, Escher, Bach*. Basic Books. ISBN 0465026567

- **Other assigned materiel-** From time to time, I will assign or provide additional reading to supplement the learning process. These materiel and any discussion are *always* testable.

**III. Student Learner Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Construct a logically consistent argument
- 2) Research as preparation for an Academic Paper
- 3) Construct a tight theory and rigorous hypothesis
- 4) Properly summarise, analyse, and critique the works of others
- 5) Deliver a logically valid and rhetorically sound Academic Argument
- 6) Defend the criticisms of their Argument

**IV. Course Outline** Major topics

- 1) Logic: Symbolic And Conditional
- 2) Argument And Fallacies
- 3) Rhetoric And Logic
- 4) Theory, Hypothesis
- 5) The Philosophy Of Science
- 6) Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Summary
- 7) The Frankfurt School, And Critique
- 8) Writing Across Disciplines And Literatures
- 9) Analysis
- 10) Feminism, Environmentalism, Deconstruction
- 11) Post-Structuralism, Post-Modernism
- 12) Paradigms, Linguistics, And Heuristics
- 13) Argument Today

**V. Course Requirements:** will be expected to do a significant amount of writing, not only for assignments, but as well as in taking notes. Class participation in discussion is mandatory. Students are expected to read ahead and are expected to attend all class sessions. Substantive contributory discourse is essential.

**VI. Methods of Evaluation:** You will be evaluated upon the following- the assigned readings, participation, and examinations of how well you have processed the material and lectures. This will be done in the following manner:

Two Quizzes worth 25 points each (or 2.5% of your grade), Two Short Papers worth 50 points each (or 5% of your grade), Four Long Papers worth 120 points each (or 12% of your grade), a Final Academic Essay worth 200 points (or 20% of your grade), and a Final Exam worth 150 points (or 15% of your grade). My subjective evaluation of your contributory participation makes up the remainder.

A detailed handout explaining assignments will be forthcoming.

**VII. Grading Scale:** You will be graded on the standard 100-point scale, conformed to Letter grades. I DO NOT CURVE GRADES- it only rewards the weak and punishes the smart.

|                       |                |                  |                  |                  |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Grading Scale:</b> | <b>90+ = A</b> | <b>80-89 = B</b> | <b>70-79 = C</b> | <b>60-69 = D</b> | <b>Below 60 = F</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|

- You will earn grades based upon *your* performance. Extra Credit opportunities will not be extended to any student who has not completed all work, and any extra credit will not account for more than five percent of your total grade.

**VIII.** I am Located in UC 224. **Office Hours** will be posted forthwith. I may also be contacted *via* email

**IX.** Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize this email account when communicating about coursework.

## X. Complete Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

| WEEK | Topics  | Assignment  | Points value | running total % |
|------|---|---|--------------|-----------------|
| 1    | 1. <i>INTRODUCTION</i><br>logic: symbolic and conditional*<br>[[Begin Reading WRAC chapters 1 and 2]]   | Worksheet: notation   | ---          | ---             |
| 1~2  | 2. what is argument?, and fallacies*  | Worksheet: reduction  | ---          | ---             |
| 2~3  | 3. rhetoric and logic*  |   |              |                 |
| 3    | 4. theory, hypothesis†<br>[[Begin Reading WRAC chapter 3, 4 and 7]]   | QUIZ: Terminology<br>Short Paper — <i>Writing Theory</i>                      | 25<br>50     | 2.5%<br>7.5%    |
| 4    | 5. <i>The Philosophy of Science and the scientific method</i> <sup>†*</sup><br>The Vienna School, Lakatos, Popper<br>[[Begin Reading WRAC chapters 5, 6 and 8]] |   |              |                 |
| 5    | 6. <i>Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Summary</i><br>CPR Part I  | Long Paper — <i>Summary</i><br>( <i>Summarising a Literature or Concept</i> ) | 120          | 19.5%           |
| 6    | 7. Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre   |   |              |                 |
| 7    | 8. de Beauvoir, Gadamer, Wollstonecraft*  | QUIZ: What We Think We Know<br>Short Paper — <i>Annotated Bibliography</i>    | 25<br>50     | 22%<br>27%      |
| 8    | 9. <i>Hegel, Marx, The Frankfurt School, and Critique</i><br>CPR Part II Hegel*, Marx*, Lukacs, Gramsci   |   |              |                 |
| 9    | 10. Horkheimer and Adorno, Benjamin, Habermas<br><br>11. Kuhn*, Feyerabend*, Oakeshott*   | Long Paper — <i>Critique</i><br>( <i>Critiquing Literature and Method</i> )   | 120          | 39%             |
| 10   | 12. <i>Writing across Disciplines and Literatures</i><br>CPR Part III: De Saussure, Lacan, Foucault   | Long Paper — <i>Synthesis</i><br>( <i>Synthesising a Concept</i> )            | 120          | 51%             |
| 11   | 13. <i>Analysis</i><br>Deleuze, Rawls*<br><br>14. <i>Feminism, Environmentalism, Deconstruction</i> †<br>Kristeva, Zimmerman*, Roden*                           | Long Paper — <i>Analysis</i>  | 120          | 73%             |
| 12   | 15. Post-Structuralism, Post-Modernism<br>Kant*, Derrida, Rorty*  |   |              |                 |
| 13   | 16. Paradigms, Linguistics, and Heuristics<br>Wittgenstein*   | Final Paper — <i>The Academic Essay</i>                                       | 200          | 83%             |
| 14   | 17. <i>Argument Today</i> †<br>Kirby*, Jameson*, Butler*  |   |              |                 |
| 15   |   | <b>Final Exam</b>   | 150          | 98%             |

\* indicates a handout accompanies

† indicates students will be directed to the internet for additional reading

## XI. CLASSROOM ISSUES

- A. Student Participation: Your participation is expected, and will be a consideration on your final grade.
- B. Course Etiquette:

1. Classroom Conduct — inappropriate behavior will be handled through University police and will result in a grade of **F**. TAMUT has rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of business. It is the students responsibility to know the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on this may be found in the catalog, which is provided to all registered students each academic year. TAMUT administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. You are expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. You are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

