

Notre Dame College, a Catholic institution in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame, educates a diverse population in the liberal arts for personal, professional, and global responsibility.

EN215: Argument & Rhetoric

Spring 2017 • Section A • Mon / Wed / Fri • 10:30-11:0p • 126 Regina

Professor: Dr. Michele Polak

Office: 419 Admin Building

email: mpolak@ndc.edu

Office Hours: MWF: 12-1p; T: 10-noon

Required Materials

- *From Critical Thinking to Argument* by Barnet and Bedau
- *Contemporary & Classic Arguments: A Portable Anthology* by Barnet and Bedau
- *Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects* by Kolln & Gray
- *A Pocket Style Manual*, Seventh Edition with 2016 MLA update by Hacker and Sommers

Supplemental readings and assignments accessed through the Course Website:

<http://michelepolak.com/215spring17/Syllabus.html>

Course Description

From the course catalog: “Students will develop proficiency in expository, analytic and critical writing that strengthens the rhetorical skills necessary for those planning to enter fields involving substantial writing.” The goals of EN215 are to explore the modes of composition, extending your range as a writer as you refine the skills learned in first-year composition. You will work with advanced forms of argument in this course, both by analyzing various argumentative texts and writing your own well-researched arguments.

Course Goals and Outcomes

In EN215, all students will work toward the goals as articulated in the Notre Dame College Core Curriculum (2016-17 Catalog, p. 30):

“Written Fluency. The strength of a liberal arts education depends on its ability to teach students how to translate critical and creative thinking into writing. Employers continue to stress clear communication skills, especially writing, as essential to a successful career.”

Therefore, students in EN215 will

- Construct sustained, coherent argument or presentation in more than one medium for general and specific audiences.
- Work in collaboration with others to address a social, personal, or ethical dilemmas.
- Demonstrate effective communication skills using conventions of Standard English for academic writing.

This is a discussion-heavy course! **You will be required to read for every class and you should be prepared to discuss the reading amongst your peers.** You will learn critical thinking skills in this course, along with various forms of analysis and argument.

As articulated in the Notre Dame College Core Curriculum (2016-17 Catalog, p. 30):

“Creative Inquiry. In a liberal arts college, students have the priceless opportunity to explore and hone their creative abilities. The study of music, art, theater, or creative writing stimulates the mind and fortifies the spirit. Students learn about the elements, forms, and styles of different media. By doing so, they understand themselves and their engagement with others critically, thoughtfully, and meaningfully.”

As a result, students in EN215 will

- Develop both creative and analytical thinking through the exploration of the creative process.
- Define and apply the vocabulary related to the elements, forms and styles of the respective media.

You will be offered the space to both agree and disagree with any of the topics we discuss this semester as you utilize the skills you are learning. As part of a liberal arts education, EN215 will also encourage you to identify and express your personal and professional goals for life beyond the college environment.

Course Requirements

Grading Policy. All requirements will be assigned a letter grade based upon the following points. You are eligible for 1000 points for this course:		Grading scale. Grades will be assigned according to the scale indicated in the College catalog:			
Grammar Worksheets	150 pts	A	100-93	C+	79-77
First Short Grammatical Excursion	50 pts	A-	92-90	C	76-73
Second Short Grammatical Excursion	100 pts	B+	89-87	C-	72-70
Long Grammatical Excursion	150 pts	B	86-83	D	69-65
Short Analysis of an Argument	50 pts	B-	82-80	F	64-0
Long Analysis of an Argument	150 pts	A grade of “A” or “A-“ represents excellence, extraordinary achievement.			
Fallacy Response	100 pts				
Toulmin/Rogerian Paper	250 pts				

Participation & Preparation. Not only is it important for you to be present in class, it is also crucial that you have a voice in discussions, group work, and in-class writing. Active, engaged participation is therefore required on your part. **You should come to class prepared to participate every day.** This means completing all reading and writing assignments, as well as being prepared to discuss what you’ve learned, observed, loved, and even hated. Know that I have a tendency to call on people at random to get a sense of what is on everyone’s mind. I don’t do this to make anyone feel awkward or uncomfortable—I do it because some people tend to talk more in class, some less. I do not think that being quiet in class necessarily means you are unprepared. By calling on people, I want to create a space in which we can all engage with one another equally and openly; I want to hear what you have to say, and so will your classmates. This classroom is a safe haven for all ideas. This means that we will respect each other as equal participants in our learning.

Course Policies

Drafts. You are welcome to bring any assignment at any stage of progress to my office for me to look at; there are no limitations on how many drafts I will read. I will be glad to comment and help you make revisions. Taking advantage of this opportunity will assure you the grade you desire for this course. **Note that I will accept no draft up for discussion through email.** I will only be able to help you properly revise if you meet with me in person.

Late Work. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the assigned due date. If you are absent the day that something is due, you are still required to submit your assignments to me by the beginning of class time. **Late assignments are NOT ACCEPTED except under extraordinary circumstances and only after prearranged negotiations with me.** If you do not submit the assignment by the due date indicated, **you will receive an F for that assignment.**

Attendance. We cannot form a community of scholars if the members of the community do not show up. **I have a strict attendance policy.** Attendance for this course is **mandatory.** You should come to class having printed out, read and annotated all required reading. You are considered absent if: you are more than five minutes late or leave before class is over; you are unprepared for class having arrived without the required material as listed in this syllabus; you use technology to virtually 'leave' class. Any extenuating circumstances must have documentation; if you are absent due to any college-sponsored organization, proper documentation must be provided.

You will be allowed **three** absences over the course of the semester. Each subsequent absence will drop your final grade by a full letter grade; if you are absent seven days, you automatically fail the course. Get to know your classmates early in the semester so that you have a contact to turn to.

You are responsible for attending every class scheduled for this course. **This includes through finals week.** Do not make arrangements to leave town before the semester ends unless you are prepared to accept the penalty concerning absences.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- the completion or attempted completion of any academic work by means other than those permitted
- the alteration of a document relating to the grading process, including changing an instructor's grade book, or changing answers on a test after the time to complete the test is over.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty include but are not limited to: unauthorized collaboration, copying another student's answers, unauthorized aids on a test, using purchased or pre-made term papers, plagiarism, and destroying another student's work. Plagiarism occurs when an individual presents the ideas, thoughts, or words of another as his or her own.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: using phrases, sentences, or ideas from a published source, including the internet, without citing that source, representing another's unpublished work as your own, rewriting or paraphrasing the work of another without giving credit to that person by citation, submitting a paper as one's own work that has been copied, in whole or in part, from another's work.

Academic Dishonesty may carry specific penalties including but not limited to: failure on the specific assignment, failure of the course, and/or a letter detailing the offense, which is kept in the Office of Academic Affairs.

The Writing Lab @ Dwyer Learning Center

Students seeking help with writing assignments, as well as those wishing to develop their writing skills in general are invited to visit The Writing Lab, located in 208 in the Administrative Building and across the hall from Dwyer Learning Center. Staffed by undergraduate students majoring in a variety of disciplines, tutors offer one one-one writing assistance and are trained in proven writing center methods. The Writing Lab is open for walk in hours 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sunday. Students may also set up an appointment by sending an email to thewritinglab@ndc.edu.

Dwyer Learning Center

The Dwyer Learning Center offers free educational support for all NDC students. Services are designed to help students achieve academic success with subject area tutors, a writing lab, and study groups. The current schedule is posted on myNDC under Dwyer Learning Center. Students are encouraged to utilize the Dwyer LC in Student Success to facilitate progress.

Disability Accommodations

A student with a documented disability who wants to receive academic accommodations must meet with Jeanne Christian, Director of the Dwyer Learning Center, by September 1 in order to determine the accommodations and services which can contribute to academic progress. Only students who have made such arrangements can request academic accommodations. All such arrangements are confidential. Additional information can be found in the Notre Dame College Student Handbook.

Disruptive Students

The College seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of Notre Dame College. Similarly, the College seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of Notre Dame College; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the College community. As a student at Notre Dame College you are expected adhere to Student Code of Conduct. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see: http://www.notredamecollege.edu/sites/default/files/Student-Lending-Code-Conduct_0.pdf

Digital Sources

Personal Technology. If you choose to use a laptop, tablet, or any other device for taking notes or drafting in class, this is allowable. However, you should not choose to use a personal device for any purpose unrelated to our class. All devices not used for learning purposes should be silenced. Smartphones should be put away, except in the rare instance that I ask you to use them for an activity. **I should not see a smartphone at any time during class.** I recommend that you power them down. If there is a serious need to leave your smartphone on, such as a family emergency, please put it on vibrate and **let me know.** If you leave the classroom to take a call, I'll understand why. If you leave the classroom to take a call without letting me know why, I will consider you absent. **If I have to ask you more than once to put your smartphone away, I will consider it an absence.**

Course Website. All of the assignments for this course can be found on the course website. Criteria for each assignment is listed in the website with a link to the .pdf file, downloadable for printing or archiving on your own computer. You can also find the Student Center on this website, which contains links to general writing documents and other general course information.

Course Moodle Site. While the course website will be where you will find all of the information for this course, I will activate our course Moodle site so that we may access group class emails, if needed. You have been automatically added to Moodle. I will be using Moodle to update the class on any assignment changes or late-breaking news; if you have not activated your Notre Dame email, please do so as it is the only email account that can be used through Moodle.

Handing in Work

- All assignments are **due at the start of class** unless otherwise indicated.
- **Do not compose your assignments on a smartphone!** While cell phone technology has come a long way, smartphones are not reliable enough for you to draft entire papers; software developed for the smartphone platform is not designed to work well with lengthy prose or file saving. It is a guarantee that any assignment you draft on your smartphone will be lost at some point during the semester. While tablets are a bit better, your safest form of drafting is to compose all your assignments on a computer or laptop.
- All writing is to be formatted in with **1” margins all around**, double-spaced, and using an academic or professional font such as Times or Times New Roman, 12pt. unless otherwise specified. (Make sure you check this info in whatever word processing program you use as Microsoft Word often defaults to 1.5” margins.)
- A page of text must fill at least 3/4 of the page to be considered a full page.
- **All digital files for this class must be EMAILED using your NDC email address.**

Weekly Schedule, Spring 2017

(Subject to Change)

All projects **DUE** at the start of class unless otherwise indicated.

- *From Critical Thinking to Argument:* **(FCTA)**
- *Contemporary & Classic Arguments: A Portable Anthology:* **(CCA)**
- *Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects:* **(RG)**

WEEK 1	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Jan 9	Course Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions
Wed, Jan 11	<p>Kleinman, “Meet the people who believe the Earth is flat”</p> <p>Navarrette, ‘Terror babies’: The new immigration scare tactic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making an Argument • Text: Kleinman • Text: Navarrette
Fri, Jan 13	<p>LAST DAY TO DROP</p> <p>Covino & Jolliffe, “What is Rhetoric?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Rhetoric? • Text: Covino & Jolliffe

WEEK 2	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Jan 16	MLK Day: Class does not meet	
Wed, Jan 18	RG: "Introduction" RG: Ch 1: A Review of Words and Phrases 6 Grammatical Excursion Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro Grammatical Excursion Assignments • Grammar review: What do we already know? • Text: RG: Introduction • Text: RG: Ch 1
Fri, Jan 20	CCA: Ch 1: Analyzing Arguments 3 CCA: Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" 275 CCA: Obama, "Commencement Address" 198	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ch 1 • Text: CCA, Orwell • Text: CCA, Obama

WEEK 3	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Jan 23	FCTA: Ch 1: Critical Thinking 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying Critical Thinking • Text: FCTA, Ch 1
Wed, Jan 25	RG: Ch 2: Sentence Patterns 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence Patterns • Text: RG: Ch 2
Fri, Jan 27	The Rhetorical Situation Considering Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rhetorical Situation

WEEK 4	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Jan 30	FCTA: Ch 2: Critical Reading: Getting Started 39 The Writing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying Critical Reading • Avoiding Plagiarism • Text: FCTA, Ch 2
Wed, Feb 1	RG: Ch 3: Our Versatile Verbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs • Text: RG: Ch 3
Fri, Feb 3	CCA: Brady, "I Want a Wife" 310 CCA: Swift, "A Modest Proposal" 257	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Swift • Text: CCA, Brady

WEEK 5	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Feb 6	FCTA: Ch 3: Critical Reading: Getting Deeper into Arguments 70 Reading Rhetorically Reading Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying Critical Argument • Text: FCTA, Ch 3

Wed, Feb 8	DUE: First Short Grammatical Excursion Assignment RG: Ch 4: Coordination and Subordination 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and Subordination • Text: RG: Ch 4
Fri, Feb 10	CCA: Plato, "Myth of the Cave" 248 CCA: Ch 4: A College Education: What Is Its Purpose? 109	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Plato • Text: CCA, Ch 4

WEEK 6	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Feb 13	FCTA: Ch 5: Writing an Analysis of an Argument 147 Analysis of an Argument Assignments Writing Critically Transition Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro Analysis of an Argument Assignments • Argument Analysis • Writing Critically • Text: FCTA, Ch 5
Wed, Feb 15	RG: Ch 5: Cohesion 82 RG: Ch 6: Sentence Rhythm 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesion • Sentence Rhythm • Text: RG: Ch 5 • Text: RG: Ch 6
Fri, Feb 17	CCA: Ch 7: Facebook: How Has Social Networking Changed How We Relate to Others? 166	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ch 7

WEEK 7	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Feb 20	FCTA: Ch 4: Visual Rhetoric: Images as Arguments 117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Rhetoric • Text: FCTA, Ch 4
Wed, Feb 22	RG: Ch 8: Choosing Adverbials 141	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverbials • Text: RG: Ch 8
Fri, Feb 24	DUE: Short Analysis of an Argument Assignment CCA: Ephron, "The Boston Photographs" 71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ephron

WEEK 8	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Feb 27	FCTA: Ch 6: Developing an Argument of Your Own 167 CCA: Ch 2: Writing Arguments 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an Argument • Text: FCTA, Ch 6 • Text: CCA, Ch 2
Wed, Mar 1	RG: Ch 9: Choosing Adjectivals 158	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjectivals • Text: RG: Ch 9

Fri, Mar 3	CCA: Ch 5: The Death Penalty: Is It Ever Justified? 126 CCA: Wilson, "Just Take Away Their Guns" 102	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ch 5 • Text: CCA, Wilson
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WEEK 9		
Mon, Mar 6 - Fri, Mar 10	Spring Break: Classes do not meet	

WEEK 10	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Mar 13	FCTA: Ch 7: Using Sources 214 Toulmin / Rogerian Paper The Information Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro Toulmin / Rogerian Paper • Doing Research: The Information Cycle • Using the Library Database • Text: FCTA, Ch 7
Wed, Mar 15	DUE: Second Short Grammatical Excursion Assignment RG: Ch 10: Choosing Nominals 179	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominals • Text: RG: Ch 10
Fri, Mar 17	Evaluating Sources Evaluating Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing Research: Evaluating Source Material • Text Citation

WEEK 11	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Mar 20	Be prepared to work in class: bring your laptop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class writing workshop
Wed, Mar 22	FCTA: Ch 9: A Logician's View: Deduction... 307 Fallacy Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro Fallacy Response • The Logical Fallacies • Text: FCTA, Ch 9
Fri, Mar 24	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW CCA: Ch 11: Student Loans: Should Some Indebtedness Be Forgiven? 222	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ch 11

WEEK 12	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, Mar 27	FCTA: Ch 8: A Philosopher's View: The Toulmin Model 293	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Toulmin Model • Text: FCTA, Ch 8
Wed, Mar 29	RG: Ch 7: The Writer's Voice 117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice • Text: RG: Ch 7

Fri, Mar 31	DUE: Fallacy Response FCTA: Jacoby, "A First Amendment Junkie" 55 CCA: Jefferson, "The Declaration of Independence" 265 CCA: Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" 270	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: FCTA, Jacoby • Text: CCA, Jefferson • Text: CCA, Cady Stanton
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WEEK 13	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, April 3	FCTA: Ch 10: A Psychologist's View: Rogerian Argument 357	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rogerian Argument • Text: FCTA, Ch 10
Wed, April 5	RG: Ch 11: Other Stylistic Variations 194	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style • Text: RG: Ch 11
Fri, April 7	CCA: Bittman, "Bad Food? Tax It, and Subsidize Vegetables" 59 CCA: McWilliams, "The Locavore Myth: Why Buying from Nearby Farmers Won't Save the Planet" 89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Bittman • Text: CCA, McWilliams

WEEK 14	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, April 10	CCA: Ch 8: Genetic Modifications of Human Beings: Is it Acceptable? 177	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ch 8
Wed, April 12	RG: Ch 12: Words and Word Clauses 212	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clauses • Text: RG: Ch 12
Fri, April 14	Good Friday: Class does not meet	

WEEK 15	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, April 17	Easter Monday: Class does not meet	
Wed, April 19	DUE: Long Grammatical Excursion Assignment RG: Ch 13: Punctuation 240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punctuation • Text: RG: Ch 13
Fri, April 21	CCA: Ch 9: Immigration: What Is to Be Done? 184 CCA: Lawrence, "On Racist Speech" 81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: CCA, Ch 9 • Text: CCA, Lawrence

WEEK 16	DUE/READ FOR TODAY	IN CLASS TODAY
Mon, April 24	DUE: Long Analysis of an Argument Assignment Be prepared to work in class: bring your laptop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class writing workshop

Wed, April 26	Last day of Classes Be prepared to work in class: bring your laptop.	• In-class writing workshop
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FINAL EXAM WEEK	Thur, April 27 - Tues, May 2	
	DUE: Toulmin / Rogerian Paper	
Sun, April 30	Seniors	
Tues, May 2	Undergraduates	