

Course texts

Hitchens, C. 2009. *God is not great: how religion poisons everything*.

New York: Twelve.

Shakespeare, W. and A. R. Branmuller (ed.). 2000. *The merchant of Venice*.

New York: Pelican.

Plus other supplemental readings freely available online and/or in libraries

Welcome to English 103, a course in the development of logical, argumentative, and analytical thinking through the examination of written and other types of cultural texts. While English 103 is a required course in advanced composition and critical thinking for many, but not all, transfer students (check with your counselors and destination university requirements case by case), all students should find a systematic course of study in logical analysis, research, and composition useful for university study and beyond.

Warnings: The five-week intersession term is a heavy schedule, but it's over fast. Keep up with the work. In general, there are two books to read, two essays to write, class notes/research journal to be kept daily, and a final presentation. Don't be late with the final drafts of the essays. Any final drafts of essay 1 or 2 submitted late will face a penalty of -1 point (of 4 total) if submitted the next class after the due date, or -2 points if submitted later. Attendance is required, and as per college policy, students may be dropped after missing a week of class during the sixteen-week semester: this means that students may be dropped after accruing more than one unexcused absence on our schedule. Arriving late and leaving early adds up to unexcused absence as well as skipping class completely. An attendance record will be posted each day, and students should sign in upon entering class. Online courses are available for students looking for a more independent schedule.

Essay #1: Seven-point analysis of religious texts and Hitchens' God

(9 pages total: 1st draft, 3 pages, due 1/6; 2nd draft, 6 pages, due 1/11; final draft, 9 pages, due 1/13)

Select a passage from three different religious texts. Select seven quotes from Hitchens' *God is not great* to represent the seven divisions of philosophy used in class: logic, ethics, physics, politics, metaphysics, epistemology, and aesthetics. Evaluate each text against the seven points. While Hitchens' analysis of religion is negative, students should draw their own conclusions with each point on each text. For the 1st draft, work in outline form rather than full paragraphs, and try to include as

much as possible of the following: 1) three passages selected from different religious texts; 2) at least 7 quotes selected from Hitchens' *God* to represent the seven points of analysis used in class; 3) your evaluation of how strongly each passage stands against the seven points of analysis, including a comparison to a work of literature for the aesthetic. For the 2nd draft, work your ideas into rough draft essay format, with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Use the rubric presented in class to help organize and revise essay. More details and practice provided in class research and journal activities.

Essay #2: Literature and religion in today's world

(10 pages total; 1st draft, 5 pages, due 1/20; final draft due 1/27)

Select a current event with aspects related to the term's analysis of religion, and identify the most relevant religious text(s) for comparison. Create and argue a thesis explaining how at least four characters from Shakespeare's *The merchant of Venice* can be metaphorically interpreted to represent analysis of the current event from some of the seven divisions of philosophy: logic, ethics, physics, politics, metaphysics, epistemology, and aesthetics. Judge the value of Hitchens' arguments and the value of the religious text(s), as represented by at least seven quotes selected to represent the seven points of analysis. Include analysis of at least three recent sources of information on the event, including a Congressional bill. Prepare in-text references and reference page in APA style. Use rubric presented in class to help organize and revise essay. More details and practice provided in class research and journal activities.

Journal (completed daily, scored last week of term)

The journal is comprised of all written evidence of study for the course: all writing and notes, including weekly research, ideas for upcoming essays, responses to instructor's notes on the texts and assignments, responses to other students' ideas. All rough and final drafts of essays should also be organized on an ongoing basis and included as part of the journal. To help students prepare their research and drafts of essays, journals should also include at least one APA format annotated bibliographic reference for each week of class (see details <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>). Students' journals should total at least two pages of combined class notes, essay drafts, and research for each day of class. During the last week of the term, students should present for scoring neatly organized paper notes, drafts, and other materials at the final exam, and online course support may be available as well for electronic files.

Final exam (in class Thursday, February 3)

Students will present essay #3 to the class as the final exam. More details will be provided in class.

Grade weights and scale (all assignments scored on 4-point scale)

Essay #1: 35% (4-point rubric score x 8.75)

Essay #2: 40% (4-point rubric score x 10)

Journal: 15% (4-point rubric score x 3.75)

Final presentation: 10% (4-point rubric score x 2.5)

Total: 100%

A = 90—100% (4-point rubric scores of 3.6—4.0)

C = 70—79% (2.8—3.19)

B = 80—89% (3.2—3.59)

D = 60—69% (2.4—2.79)

Calendar of readings and assignment due dates

Week 1: 1/4—6	<i>God</i> , chs. 1—4 <i>Merchant</i> , I	e1, 1 st draft, 3 p., due 1/6
Week 2: 1/11—13	<i>God</i> , chs. 5—8 <i>Merchant</i> , II	e1, 2 nd draft, 6 p., due 1/11 e1, final draft, 9 p., due 1/13
Week 3: 1/18—20	<i>God</i> , chs. 9—12 <i>Merchant</i> , III	e2, 1 st draft, 5 p., due 1/20
Week 4: 1/25—27	<i>God</i> , chs. 13—16 <i>Merchant</i> , IV	e2, final draft, 10 p., due 1/27
Week 5: 2/1—3	<i>God</i> , chs. 17— afterword <i>Merchant</i> , V	optional last revision of e1 or e2, due 2/2 final exam presentation, 2/3

Department and campus information

Prerequisite: English 101 or equivalent

English 103 Course objectives (from course outline)

- Use pre-writing techniques.
- Draft, edit, and revise organized essays of 2000+ words in-class.
- Use a variety of sentence structures and essay methods.
- Discuss and critique ideas in group discussions.
- Analyze and refine writing processes: plan, draft, revise, edit, and proofread.
- Use all verb forms and tenses correctly and punctuate sentences effectively, avoiding comma

splices, sentence fragments, and run-on sentences.

- Summarize and interpret abstract arguments. Identify and categorize positions and supporting illustrations and examples.
- Recognize hidden assumptions, opposing points, find counter-examples.
- Analyze sophisticated college-level expository texts.
- Distinguish main ideas and supporting points.
- Critique evidence in texts. Evaluate role of personal opinion in formal academic essays.
- Evaluate the persuasiveness of arguments and evidence, critique assumptions, and make relevant inferences, including inferences about

authorial motivation and biases.

- Assess alternative arguments and strategies
- Distinguish between different styles of written English.
- Evaluate appropriateness of particular style, tone, or voice for a given audience.
- Plan and write college-level essays of 2,000+ words that analyze, interpret, and compare concepts and that argue for or against a position.
- Locate appropriate information sources using library, online, campus and community resources.
- Design research plan.
- Apply citation, quotation, and bibliographic conventions in research papers.
- Evaluate and compare ideas within an intellectual tradition.
- Design and compose 2000+ word paper that incorporates research and critical thinking.

SLO FOR ENGLISH 103

Objectives: A student will

Plan and write an essay of 2,000+ words

Criteria: To the following standards:

- Focused, logically organized, and developed structure, with introduction, thesis, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- Insightful analysis
- Use of critical thinking techniques and research
- Coherent interpretation of concepts
- Appropriate citation, quotation, and bibliographic conventions

Assessment: As measured by the following methods:

Embedded assessment: Random samples of student work will be examined by a group of faculty from the department.

Rubric: And scored by the following rubric: Exemplary:

A paper in this category has the following criteria:
-- effectively addresses writing task with a strong argumentative thesis

- argument is well organized and thoughtfully developed
- responds cogently with well-chosen examples
- claims presented with analytical and insightful reasoning
- research supports argument well
- word choice is apt and sentences are effective, often sophisticated
- conventions of written English observed
- effectively uses research with correct citation and documentation evident

Acceptable:

A paper in this category has the following criteria:

- effectively addresses writing task with an argumentative thesis
 - argument is organized and developed
 - uses appropriate examples and sensible reasoning
 - paper shows research that generally addresses argument
 - has a less fluent and complex style
 - varies sentence shape and structure effectively
 - observes conventions of written English though has occasional errors
 - adequately researched with citation
- #### Unacceptable:
- A paper in this category has the following criteria:
- lacks an argumentative thesis
 - lacks purposeful development
 - fails to use appropriate examples from research, or lacks research
 - lacks stylistic command
 - does not observe conventions of written English
 - does not cite source materials correctly

Office of Special Services

Students with a verified disability who may need a reasonable accommodation(s) for this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact the Office of Special Services (CH 109, 323-953-4000 X2270) as soon as possible. All information will remain confidential.